NEW GRAPPLER BAKI

BAKI

NO. 28

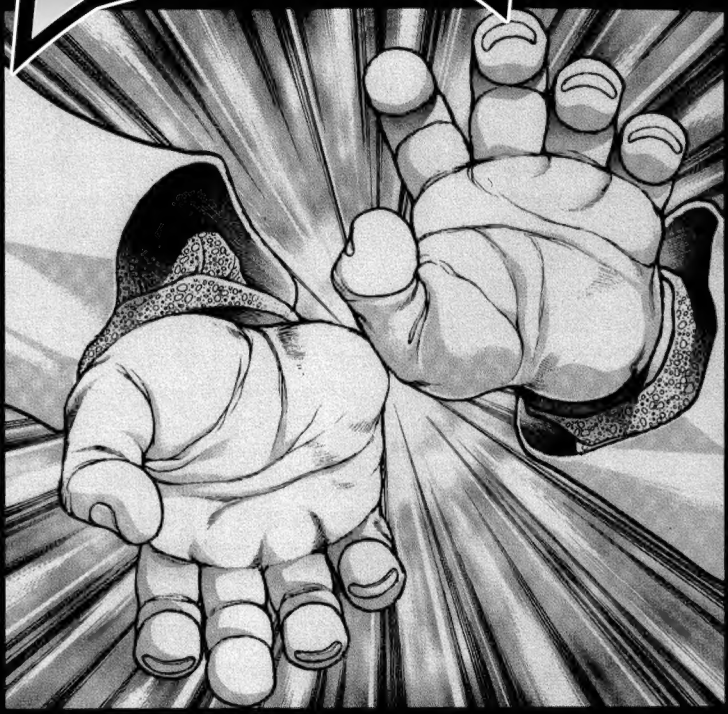
AC

KEISUKE ITAGAKI

NEW GRAPPLER BAKI

BAKI

No.28



KEISUKE ITAGAKI

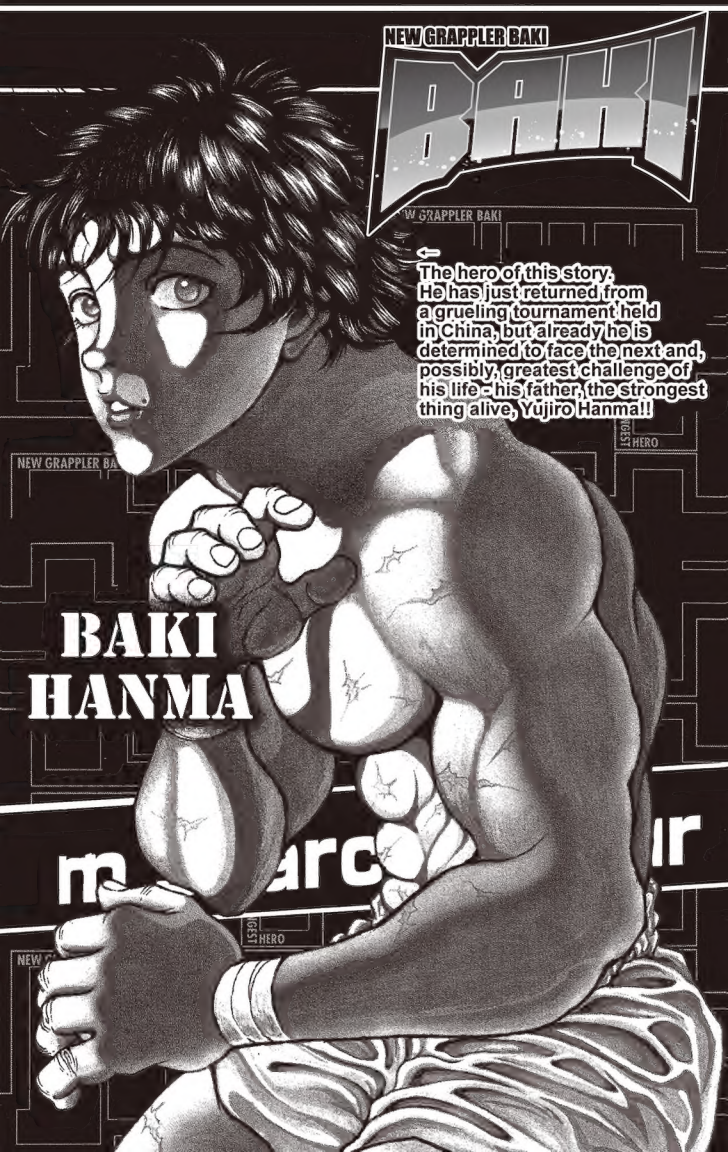
CAST & STORY

→ Son of the legendary Mohammad Alai. Faster, stronger, and more agile than his father, he is an accomplished genius who perfected Alai-style mixed martial arts.

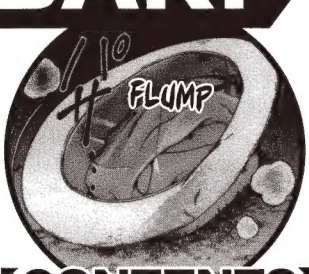
MOHAMMAD ALAI JR.

strongest hero

The story so far...
After sustaining a near-fatal injury at the hands of the five death row convicts, Baki Hanma, champion of the Ultimate Fighters Tournament, was carried off to China to receive specialist treatment. There he competed in the Centennial Tournament, China's largest and greatest martial arts event, held once every 100 years. Baki, his father, and a host of others fought long, arduous battles throughout the tournament and, as a result, Baki finally gained the resolve he needed to challenge his father, Yujiro Hanma. However, lying in wait for him upon his return to Japan was none other than the child prodigy, Mohammad Alai Jr.!!


NEW GRAPPLER BAKI
BAKI
The hero of this story. He has just returned from a grueling tournament held in China, but already he is determined to face the next and, possibly, greatest challenge of his life - his father, the strongest thing alive, Yujiro Hanma!!
BAKI HANMA

BAKI



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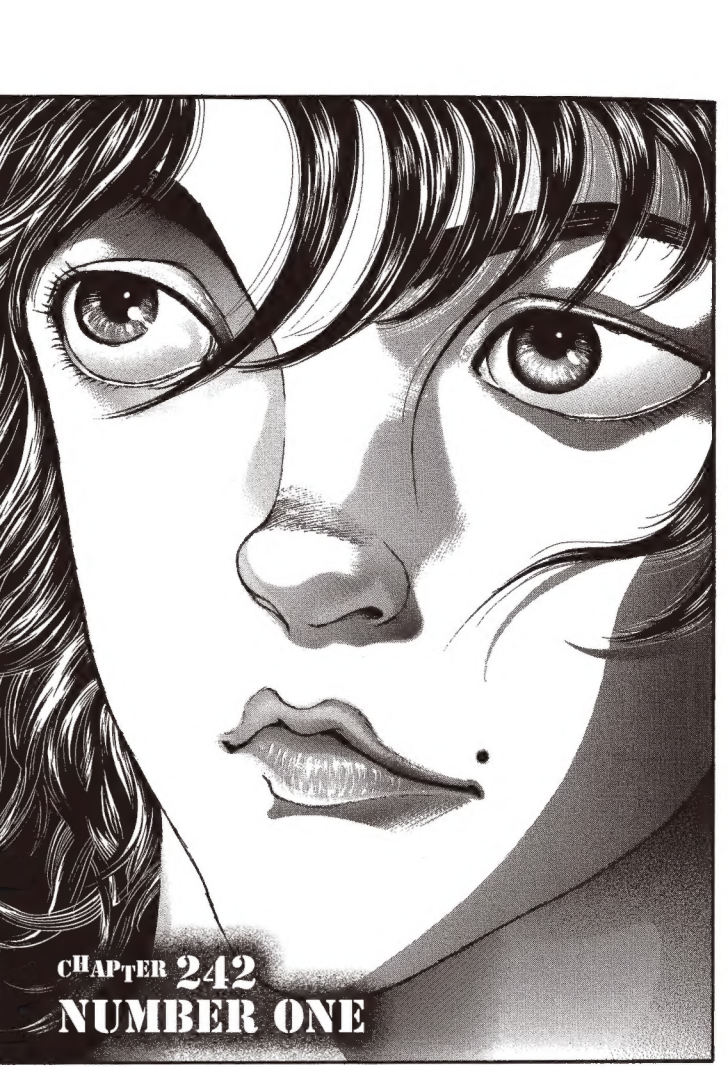
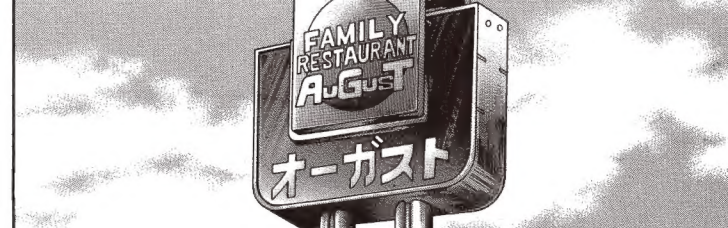
ANOTHER HANMA

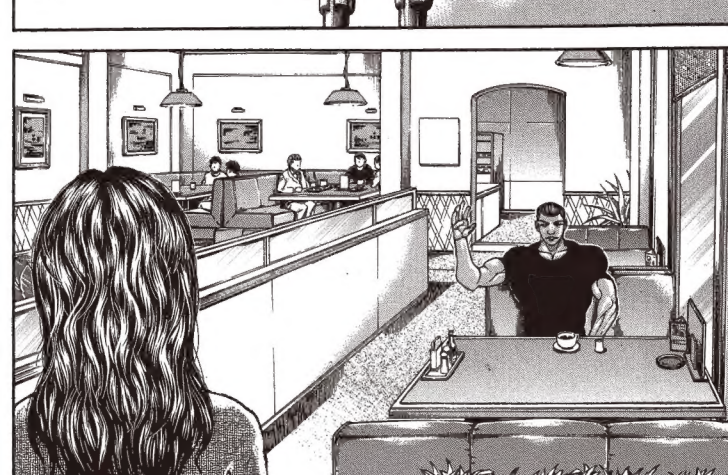
BAKI

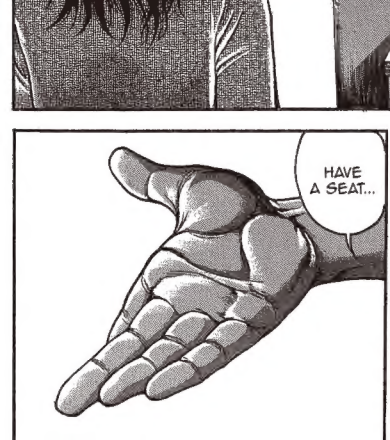
No. 28

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

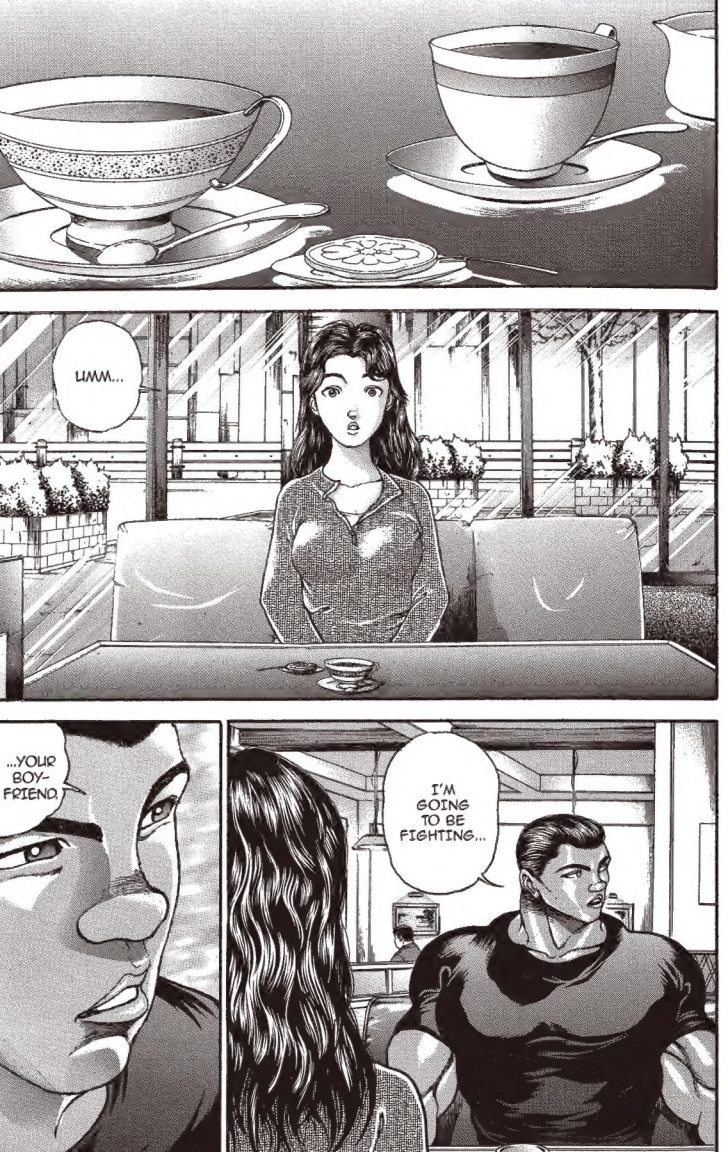

CHAPTER 242
NUMBER ONE

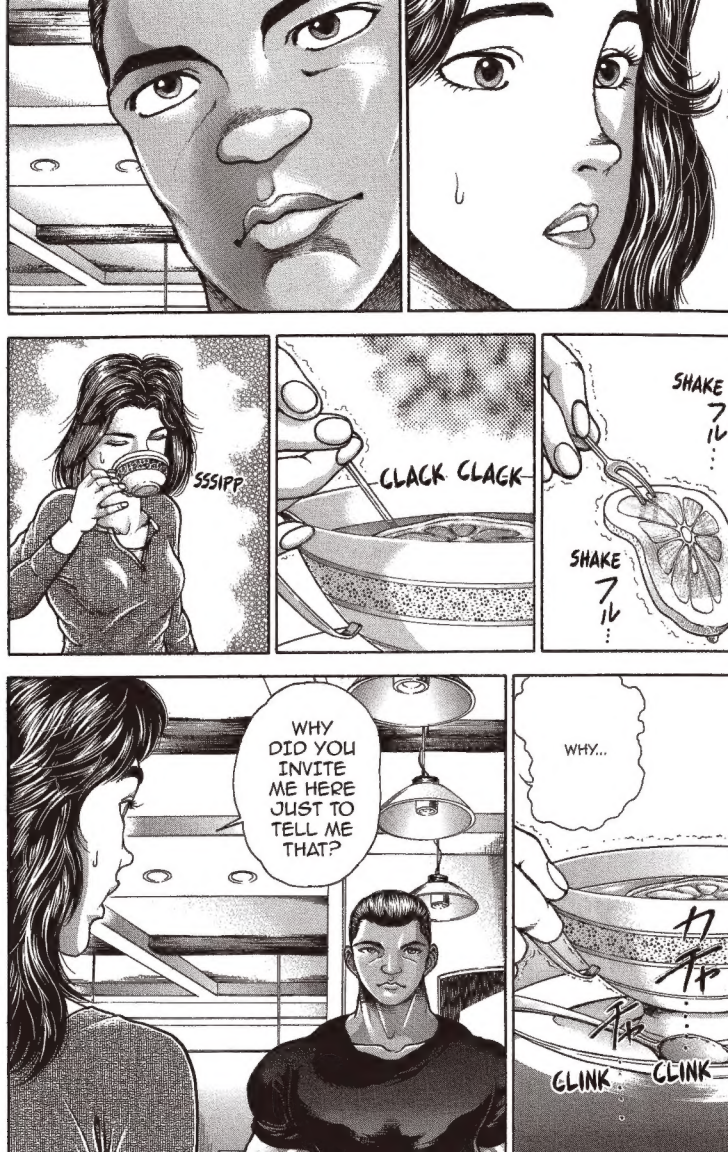

FAMILY RESTAURANT
AUGUST
オーガスト

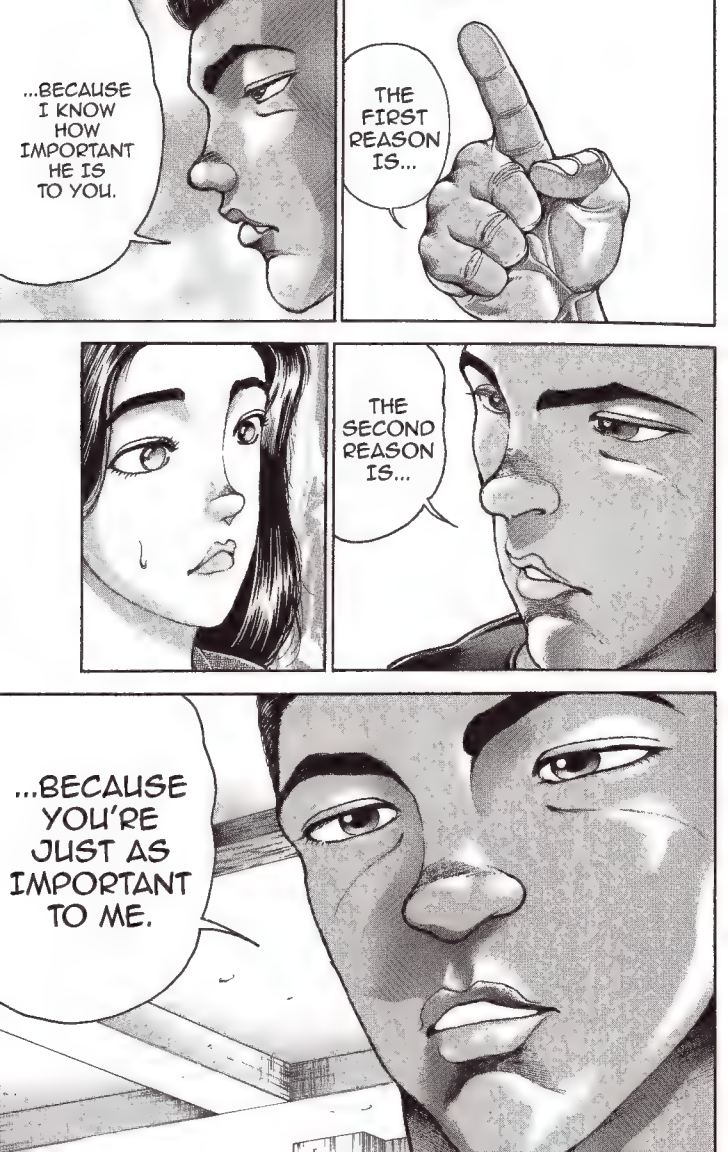


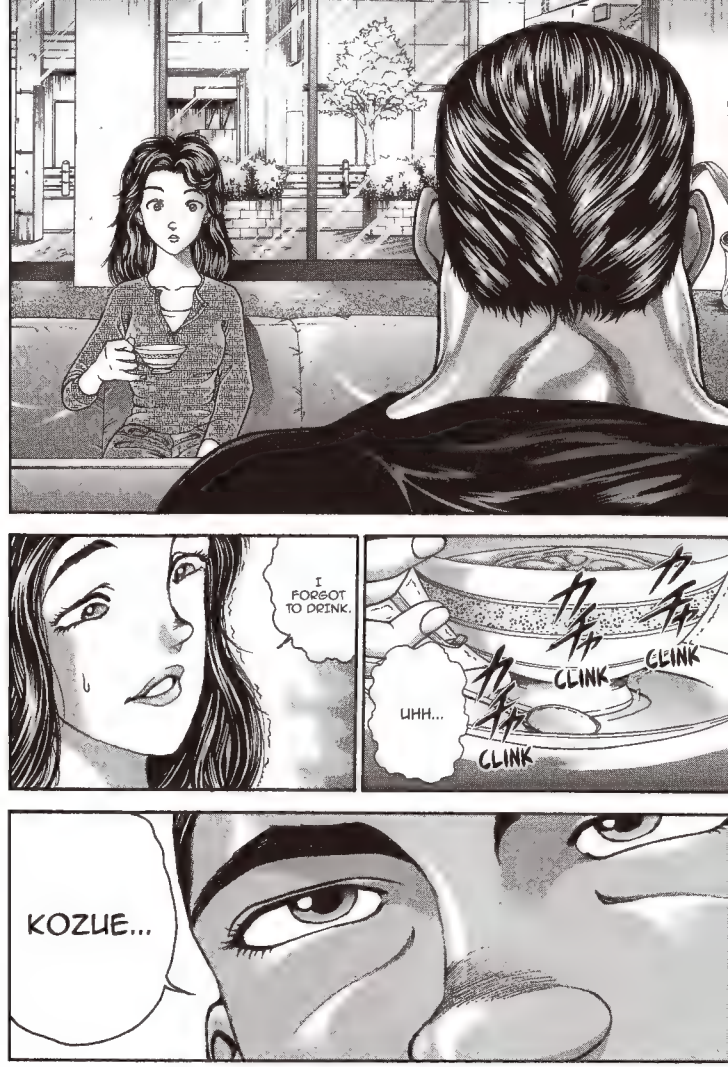

HAVE A SEAT...

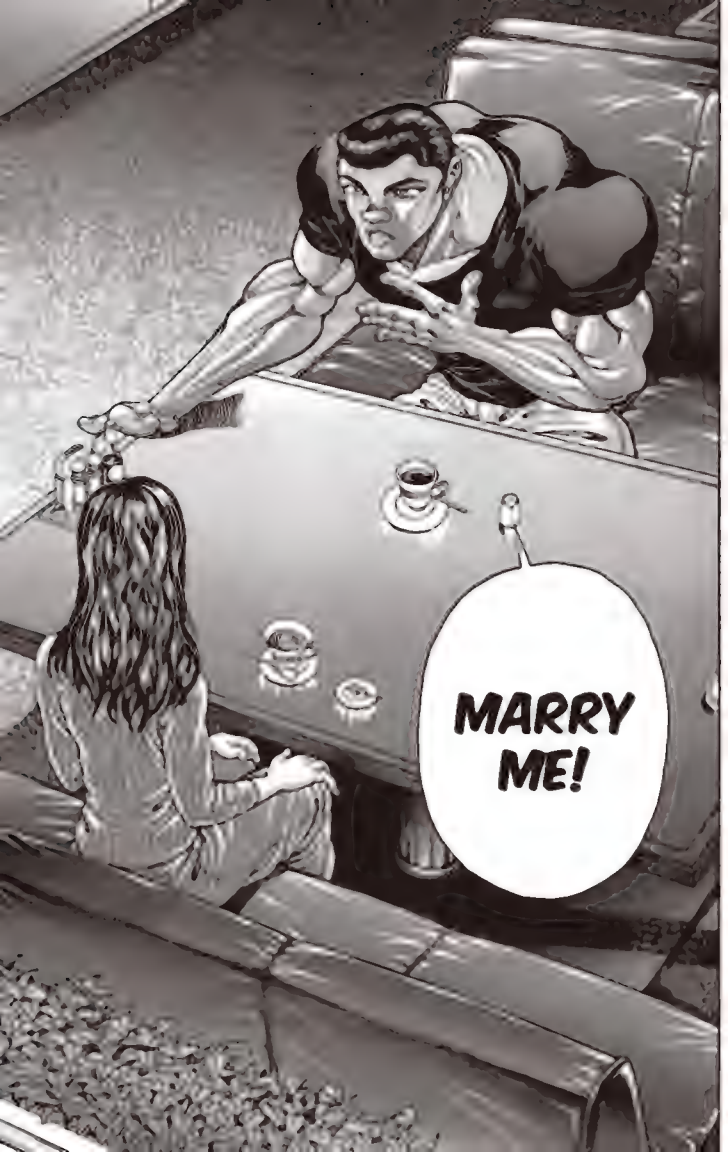
SORRY I'M LATE!

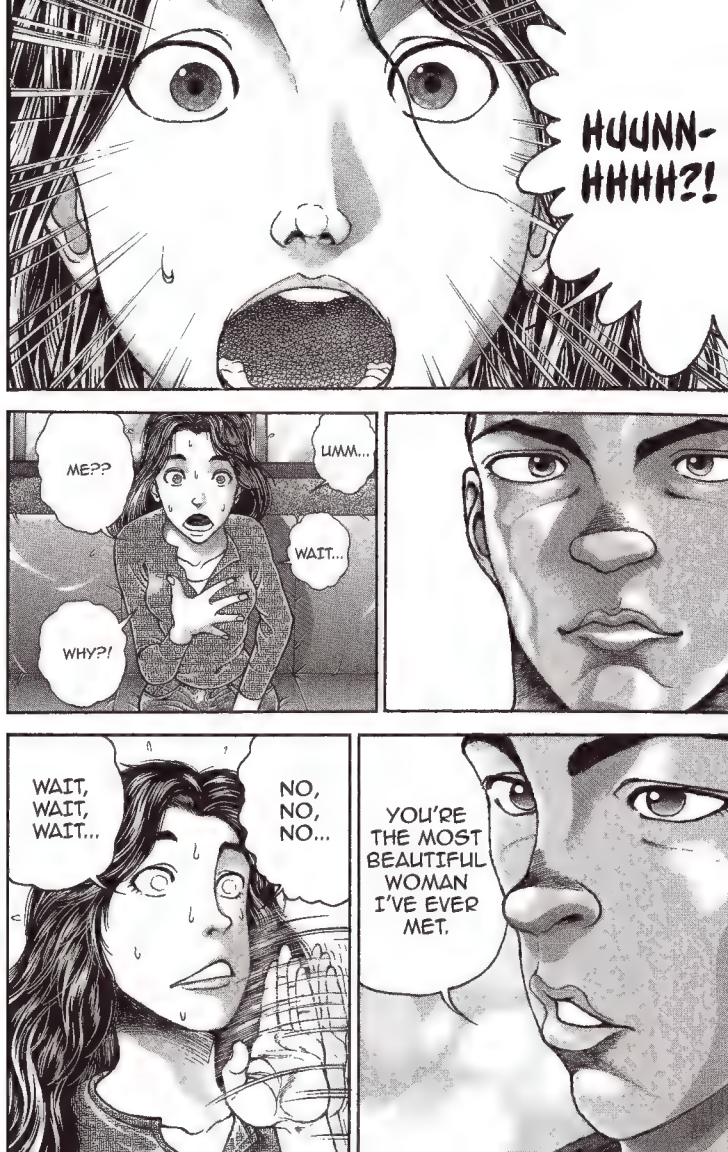

UMM...
I'M GOING TO BE FIGHTING...
...YOUR BOY-FRIEND.


SSSIPP
CLACK CLACK
SHAKE
SHAKE
WHY DID YOU INVITE ME HERE JUST TO TELL ME THAT?
WHY...
CLINK
CLINK


...BECAUSE I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT HE IS TO YOU.
THE FIRST REASON IS...
THE SECOND REASON IS...
...BECAUSE YOU'RE JUST AS IMPORTANT TO ME.

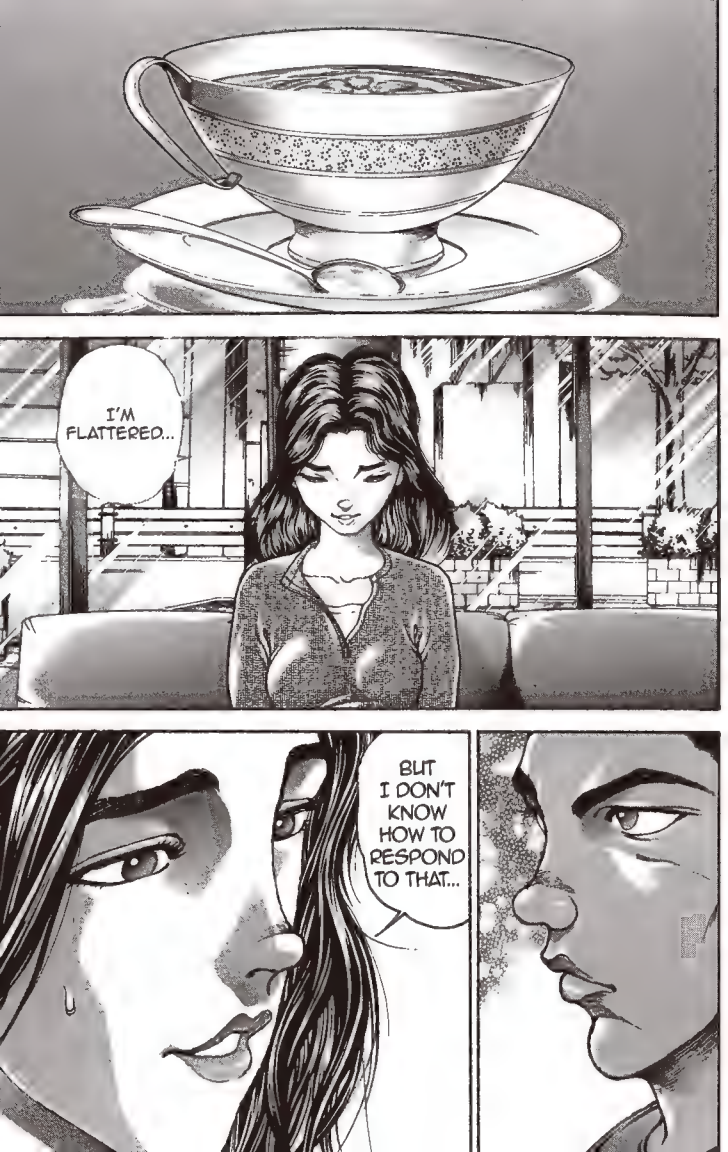

I FORGOT TO DRINK.
UHH...
カチャ
CLINK
カチャ
CLINK
カチャ
CLINK
KOZUE...

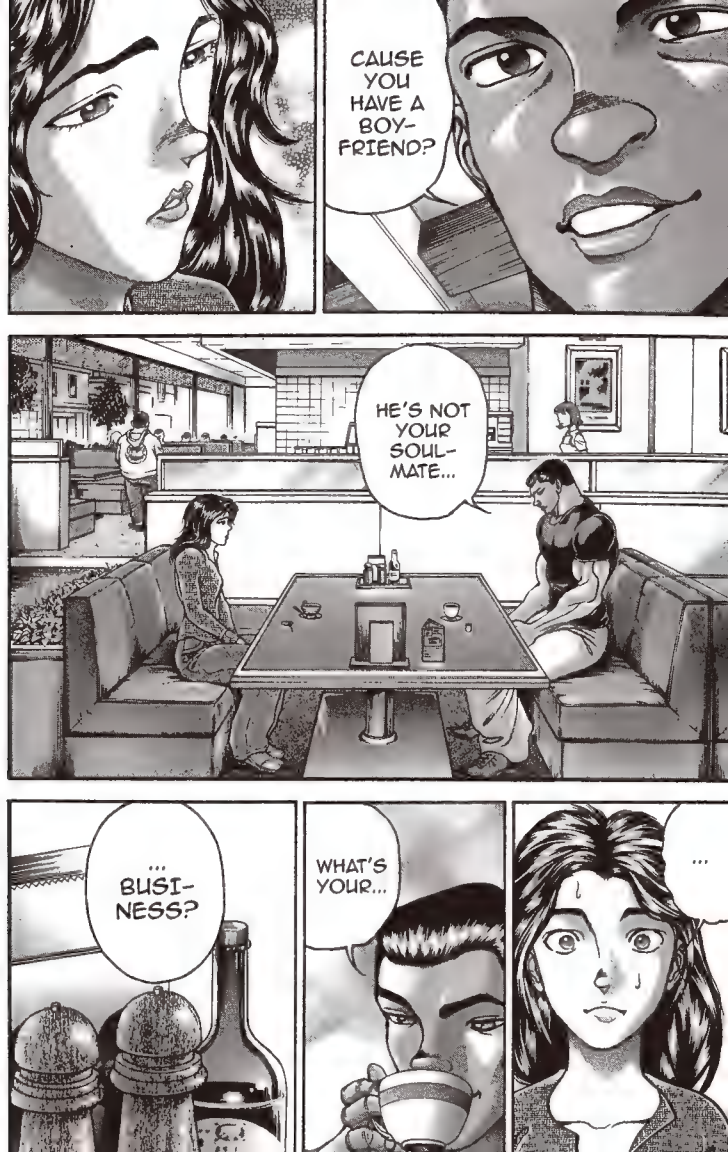

MARRY ME!


HUUNN-HHHH?!
ME??
UMM...
WAIT...
WHY?!
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT...
NO, NO, NO...
YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN I'VE EVER MET.

I CAN'T POSSIBLY BE THE *MOST* BEAUTIFUL!
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF *YOU* THINK YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OR NOT.
IT'S NOT UP TO YOU TO DECIDE.

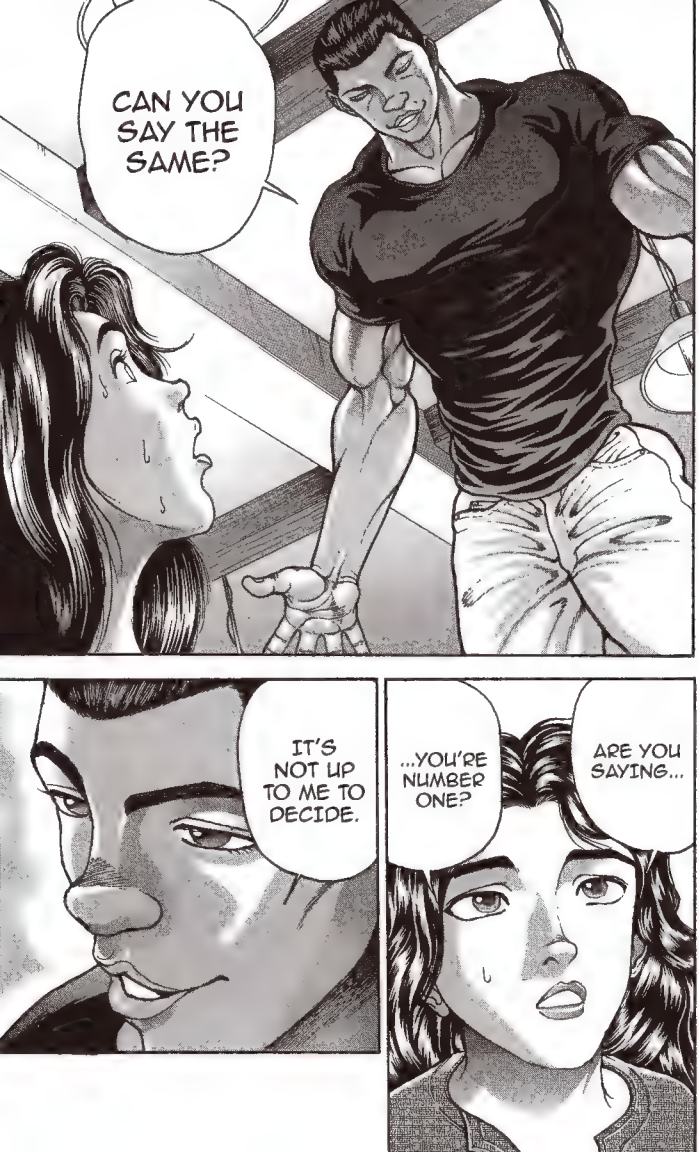
THAT'S MY JOB.
I WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WITH YOU.
SSSIP

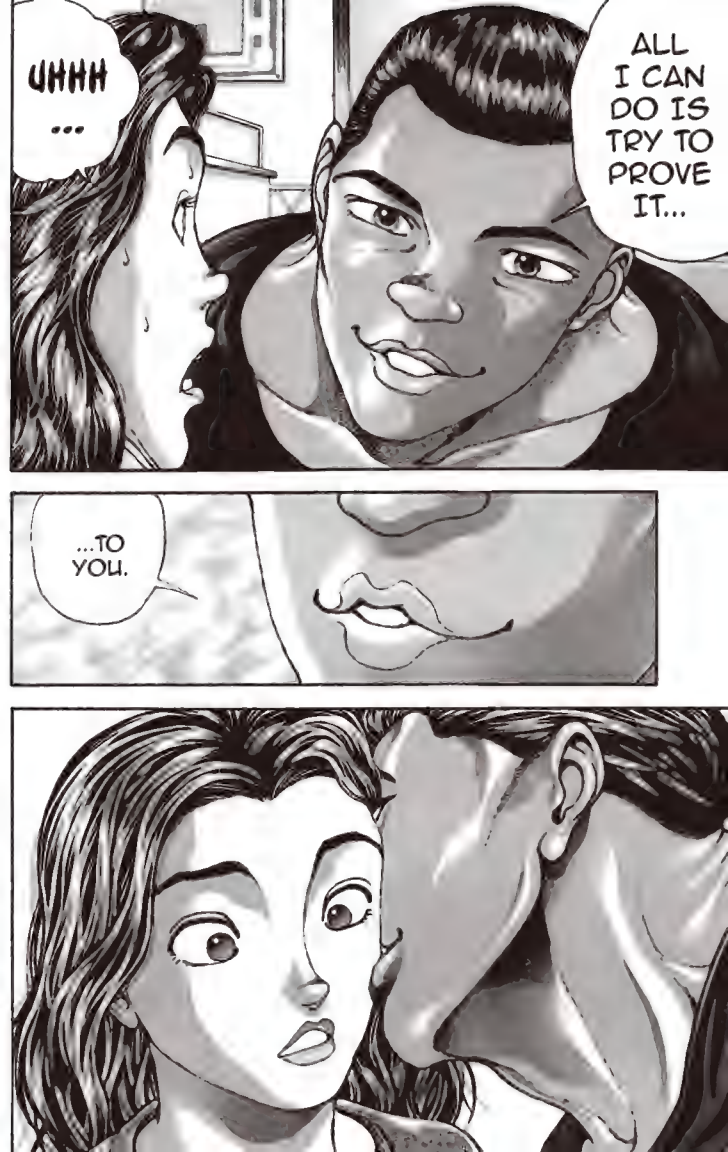

I'M FLATTERED...
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO RESPOND TO THAT...


CAUSE YOU HAVE A BOY-FRIEND?
HE'S NOT YOUR SOUL-MATE...
... BUSI-NESS?
WHAT'S YOUR...
...

I'M A STUDENT...?
UMM...
...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
NO...
...YOUR GOAL IS...
AND AS A WOMAN ...
YOUR BUSI-NESS...
...IS BEING A WOMAN.

...TO FIND THE NUMBER ONE MAN.
...
I ALREADY FOUND MY NUMBER ONE.

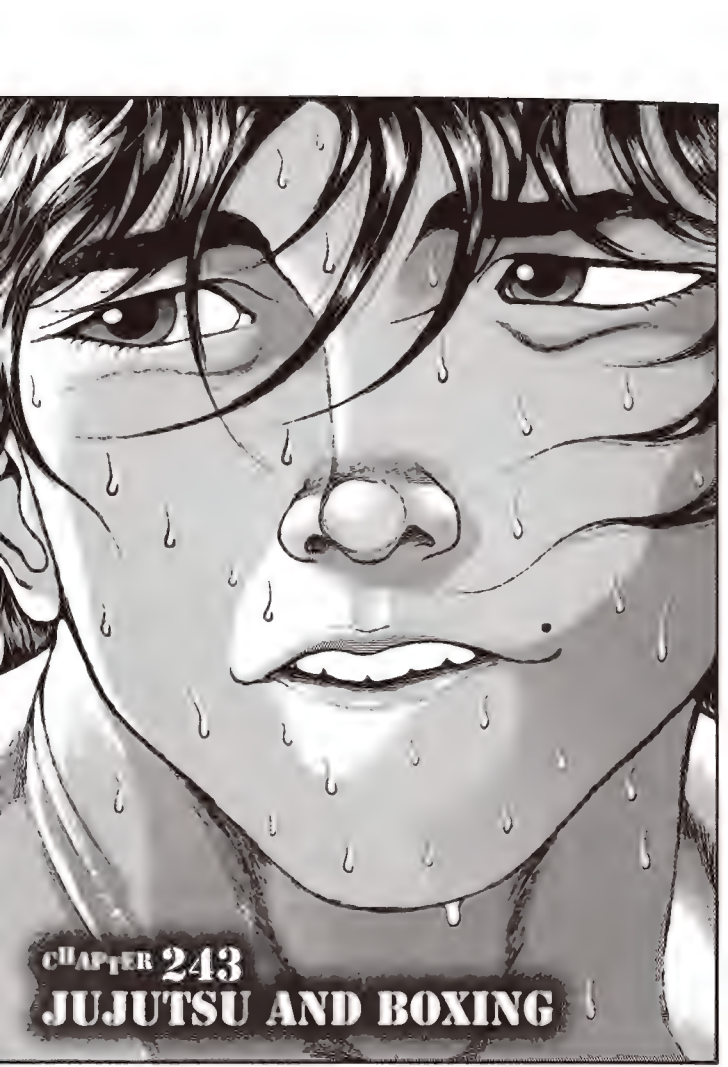

CAN YOU SAY THE SAME?
IT'S NOT UP TO ME TO DECIDE.
...YOU'RE NUMBER ONE?
ARE YOU SAYING...


UHHH ...
ALL I CAN DO IS TRY TO PROVE IT...
...TO YOU.

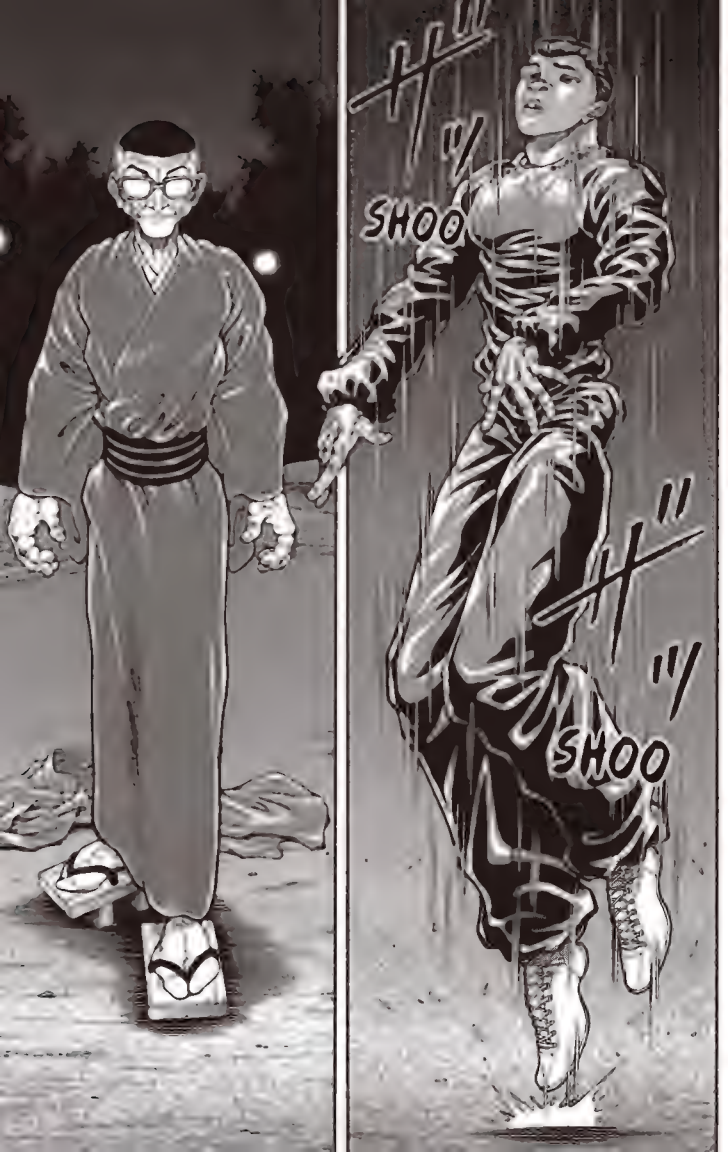
NO!!
WE'LL MEET AGAIN.
YOU CAN'T HIT ME.

WORD IS...
THAT'S WHY I'VE GOTTA FIGHT YOU.
...BAKI HANMA'S GOT A LOT OF RESPECT FOR YOU.
HO HO...

I REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE YOUNG.
SHALL WE BEGIN?
SHOO
SHOO


CHAPTER 243
JUJUTSU AND BOXING

SHALL WE BEGIN?
SPRING
SPRING
FLUMF
SHOO
SHOO


SHOO
SHOO

SHOO
...YOUNG MAN?
SO WHAT DO YOU SAY...
SHOO
SHOO
P100
ARE YOU READY ...

...TO BEGIN?
SHOO
SHOO
INCRED-IBLE...!!
TRICKLE...
TRICKLE...
THIS GUY'S NO BIGGER THAN A TEN-YEAR-OLD KID!
THE POWER OF JAPANESE MARTIAL ARTS...

BUT...!!

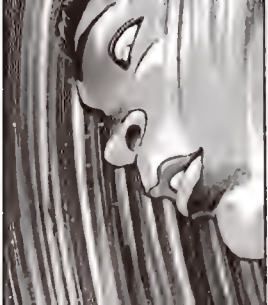
THWIIIIISSSSSHHHHH

CLACK
!!

НУД
НАД...

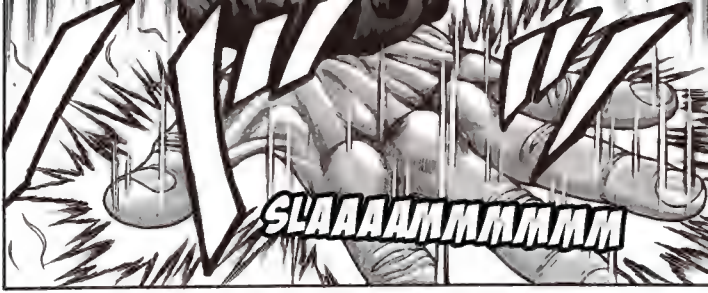
HOOAHH!
BADOOOMMMMPPHHH

...!!
SPIN
AAAGGHHH!!

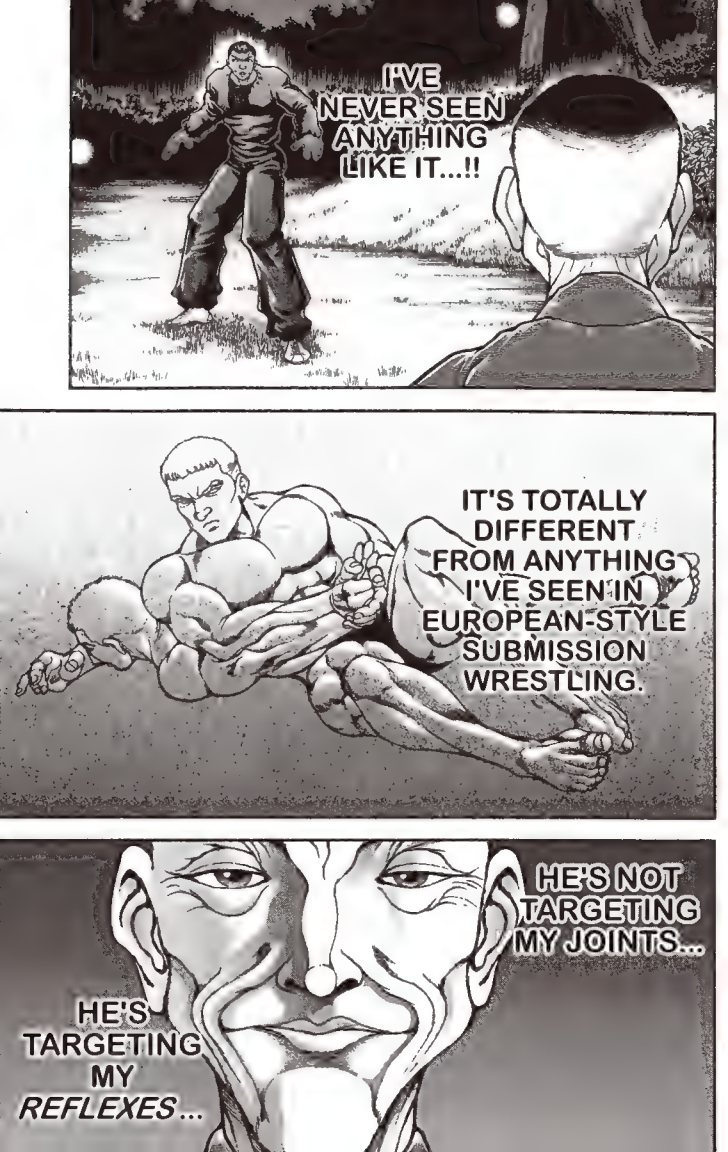


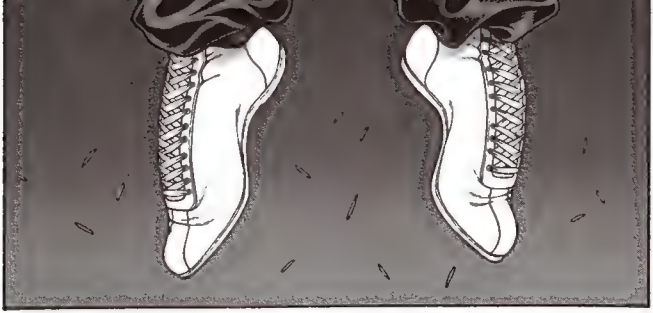
THWOOM-
MPPPHHH

DOOOOM-
MMPPPHHH


SLAAAAMMMMMM

SHOOOMMMPPPHHHHH

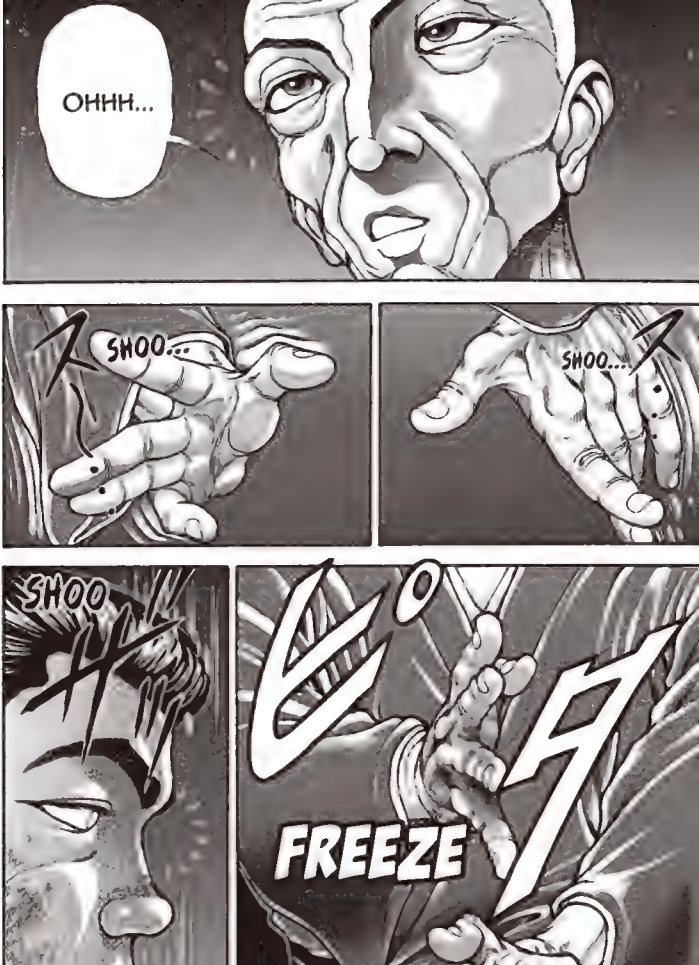

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT...!!
IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM ANYTHING I'VE SEEN IN EUROPEAN-STYLE SUBMISSION WRESTLING.
HE'S NOT TARGETING MY JOINTS...
HE'S TARGETING MY *REFLEXES*...



SHOO
BUT...
SHOO

SHOO
SHOO
IT TAKES MORE THAN THAT TO FAZE ME.

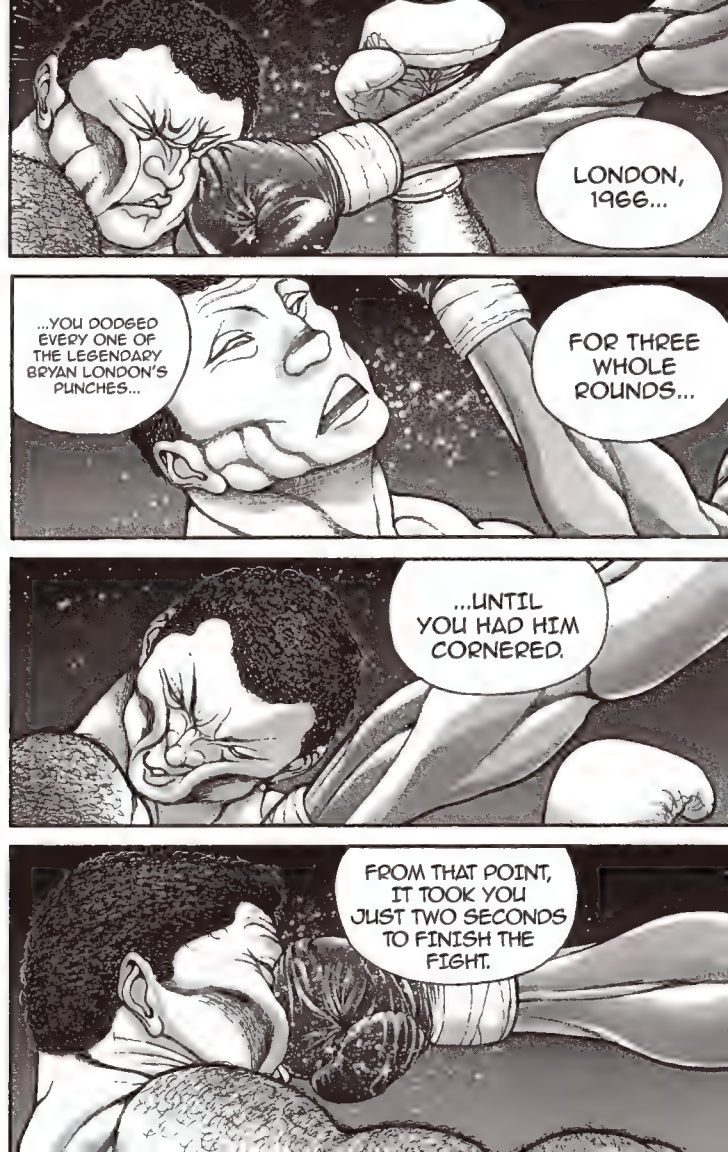
SHOO
THERE'S NO WAY...
...I'M LOSING THIS ONE!!
SHOO
SHOO


OHHH...
SHOO...
SHOO...
SHOO
FREEZE

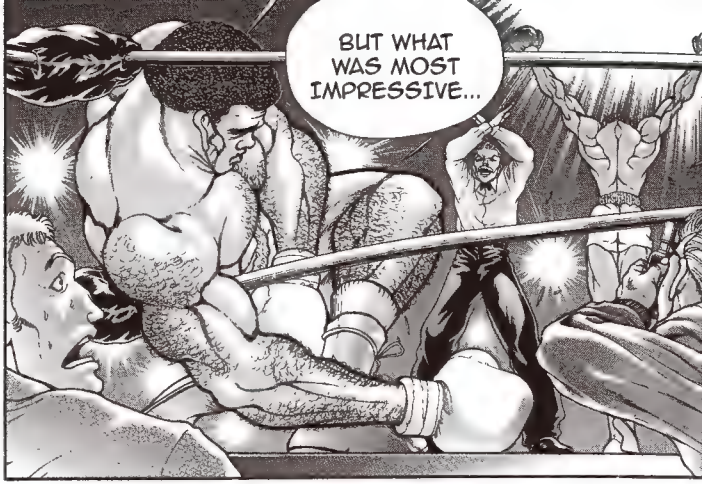
THE HISTORY OF BOXING...
...IS NO LONGER THAN 100 YEARS.
SHOO
SHOO
SHOO
IT HASN'T EVEN BEGUN TO RIPEN.

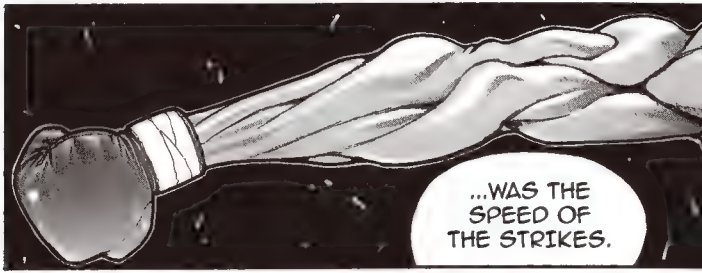
BASHOOO-
MMMPPPHHHH

CHAPTER 244
HAND SPEED

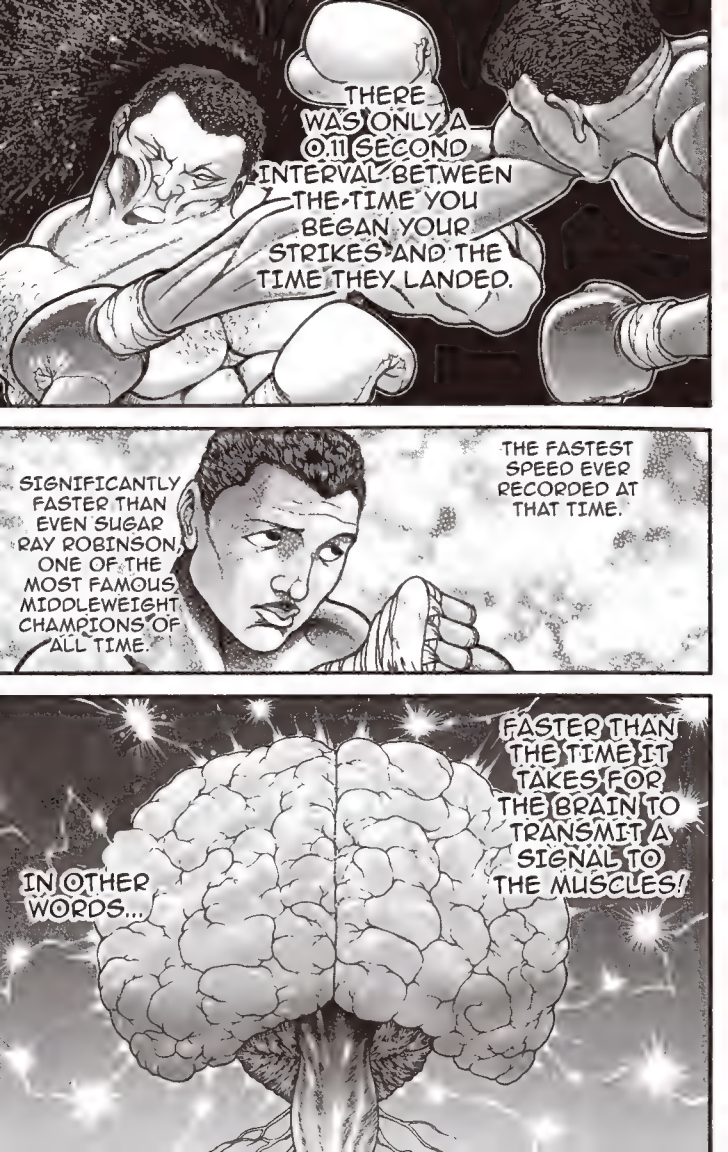

LONDON, 1966...
...YOU DODGED EVERY ONE OF THE LEGENDARY BRYAN LONDON'S PUNCHES...
FOR THREE WHOLE ROUNDS...
...UNTIL YOU HAD HIM CORNERED.
FROM THAT POINT, IT TOOK YOU JUST TWO SECONDS TO FINISH THE FIGHT.

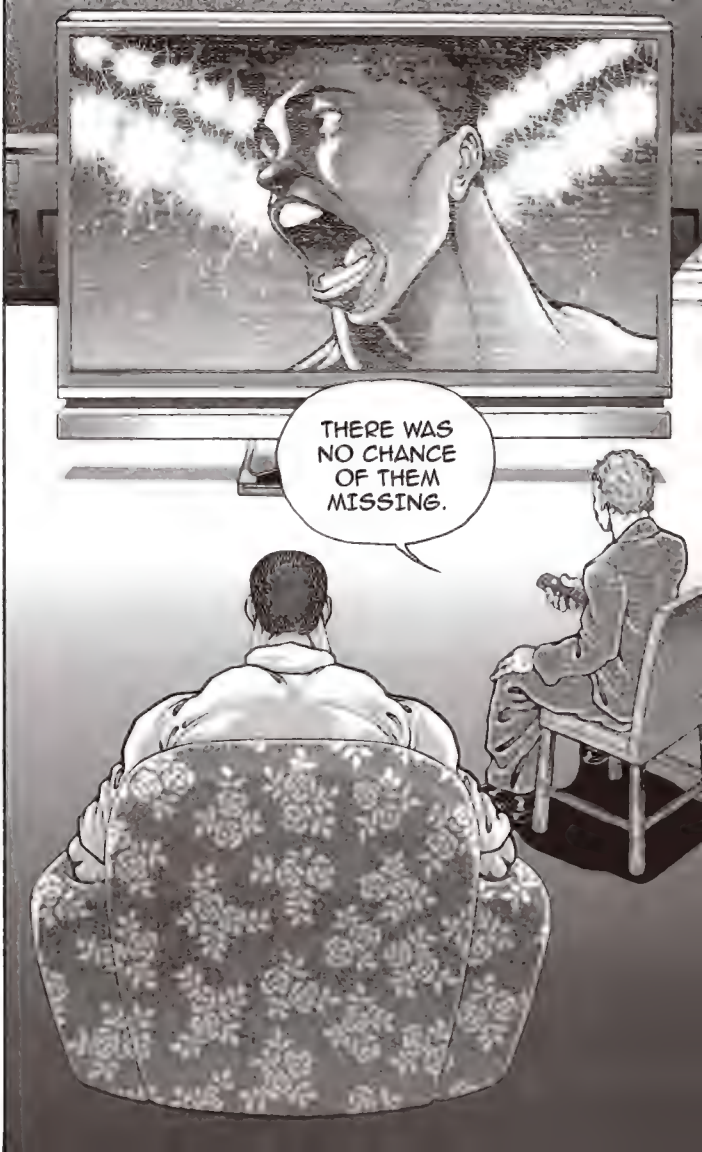
IN THAT BRIEF PERIOD OF TIME...
...YOU DELIVERED 17 BLOWS...
...AND LANDED EVERY ONE OF THEM.


BUT WHAT WAS MOST IMPRESSIVE...


...WAS THE SPEED OF THE STRIKES.

THE FIGHT WAS RECORDED IN 8 MM FILM.
AND YOUR SPEED WAS CALCULATED BY COUNTING THE FRAMES.


THERE WAS ONLY A 0.11 SECOND INTERVAL BETWEEN THE TIME YOU BEGAN YOUR STRIKES AND THE TIME THEY LANDED.
THE FASTEST SPEED EVER RECORDED AT THAT TIME.
SIGNIFICANTLY FASTER THAN EVEN SUGAR RAY ROBINSON, ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONS OF ALL TIME.
FASTER THAN THE TIME IT TAKES FOR THE BRAIN TO TRANSMIT A SIGNAL TO THE MUSCLES!
IN OTHER WORDS...


THERE WAS NO CHANCE OF THEM MISSING.

...THERE HASN'T BEEN ONE ATHLETE, LET ALONE BOXER...
SINCE YOUR RETIREMENT IN 1981
...ANYONE EVER WILL.
IT'S DOUBTFUL AS TO WHETHER...

NONE WHO STAND... UNDER THAT LIGHT.
SMIRK
LIGHT ...?
...
A BOXER
...WHO DOESN'T GET IN THE RING.

...WHO'S NEVER BEEN IN A RING?
THERE'S A BOXER...
THAT KID...
...IS FASTER THAN ME.

HOW DARE YOU...

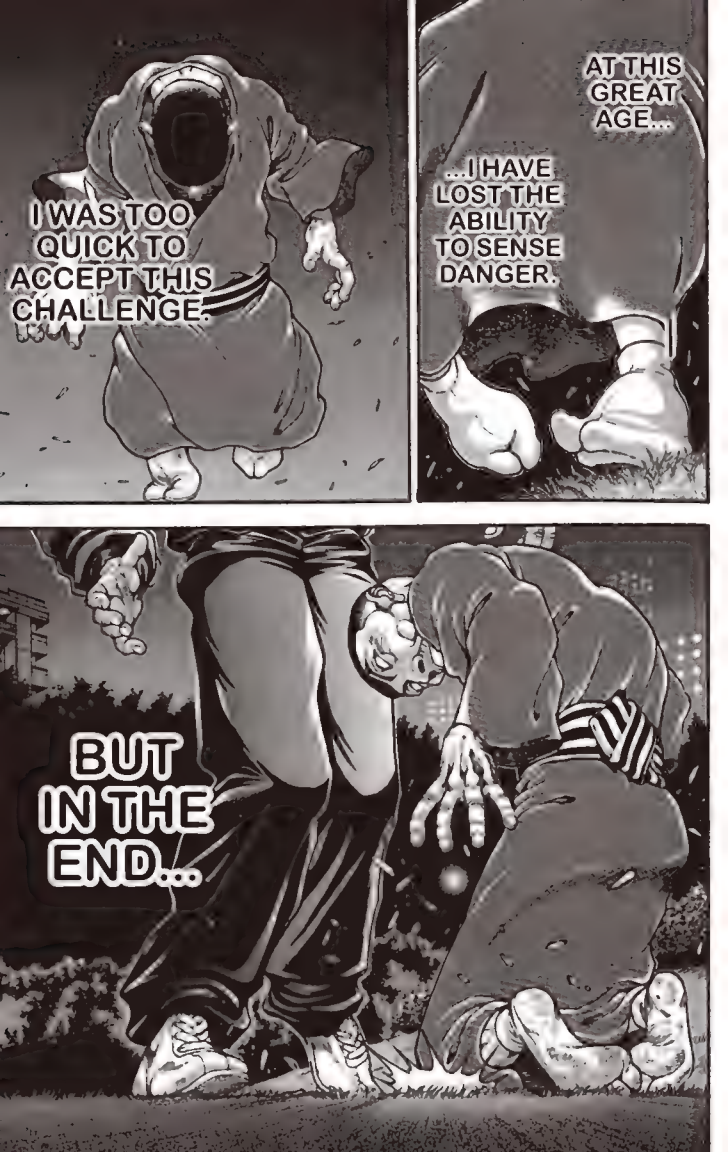
...HAVE THE AUDACITY TO SHOW ME MERCY!!

I DON'T WANT TO INJURE YOU IF I DON'T HAVE TO.
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT...
YOU'RE ONE OF THE GREATS...
SHOWING YOU MERCY IS...
...AN UNFORGIVABLE INSULT.

SSSHHHHHH

BADOOOOOOS!

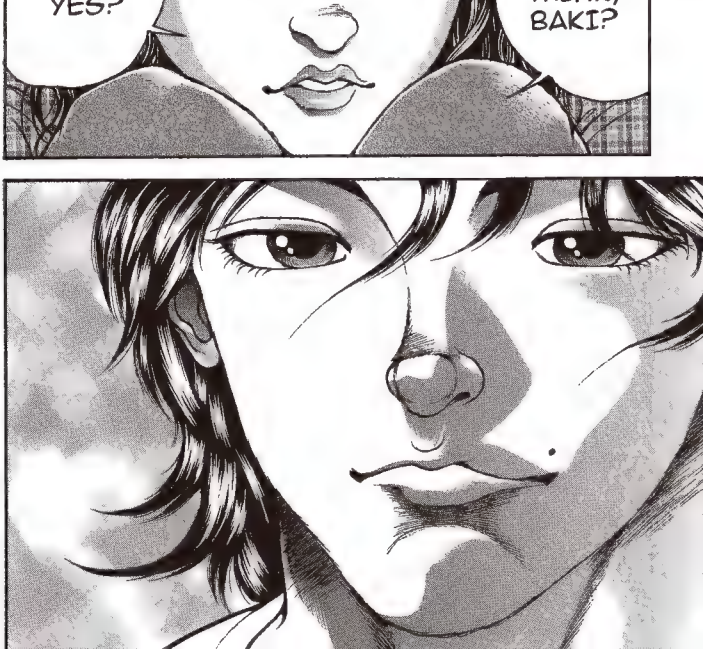
I'VE
BEEN A
FOOL...

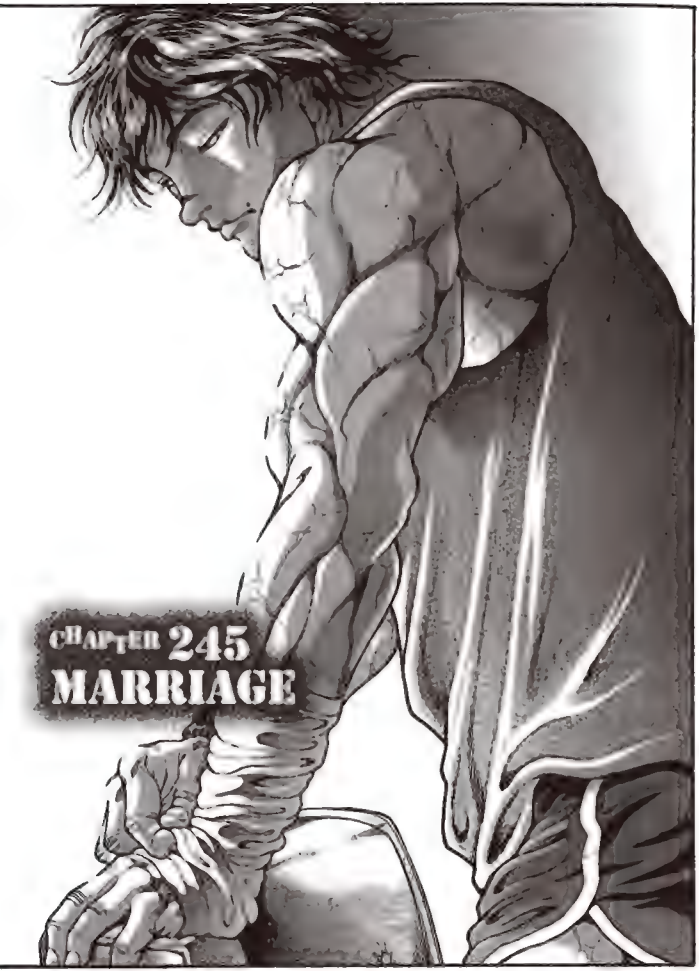

I WAS TOO QUICK TO ACCEPT THIS CHALLENGE.
AT THIS GREAT AGE...
...I HAVE LOST THE ABILITY TO SENSE DANGER.
BUT IN THE END...

...THIS YOUNG MAN WAS KIND ENOUGH...
...TO FINISH ME OFF AS HUMANELY AS POSSIBLE.

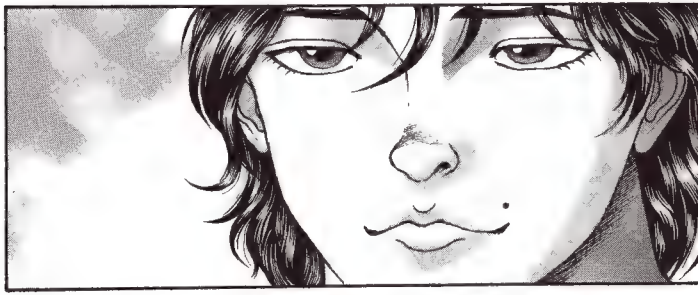
BY WHO...?
I CAN'T SAY.

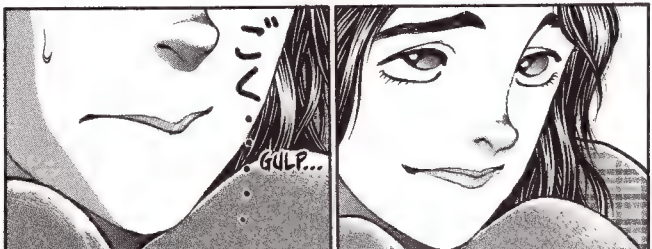
SHOULD I SAY YES?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, BAKI?

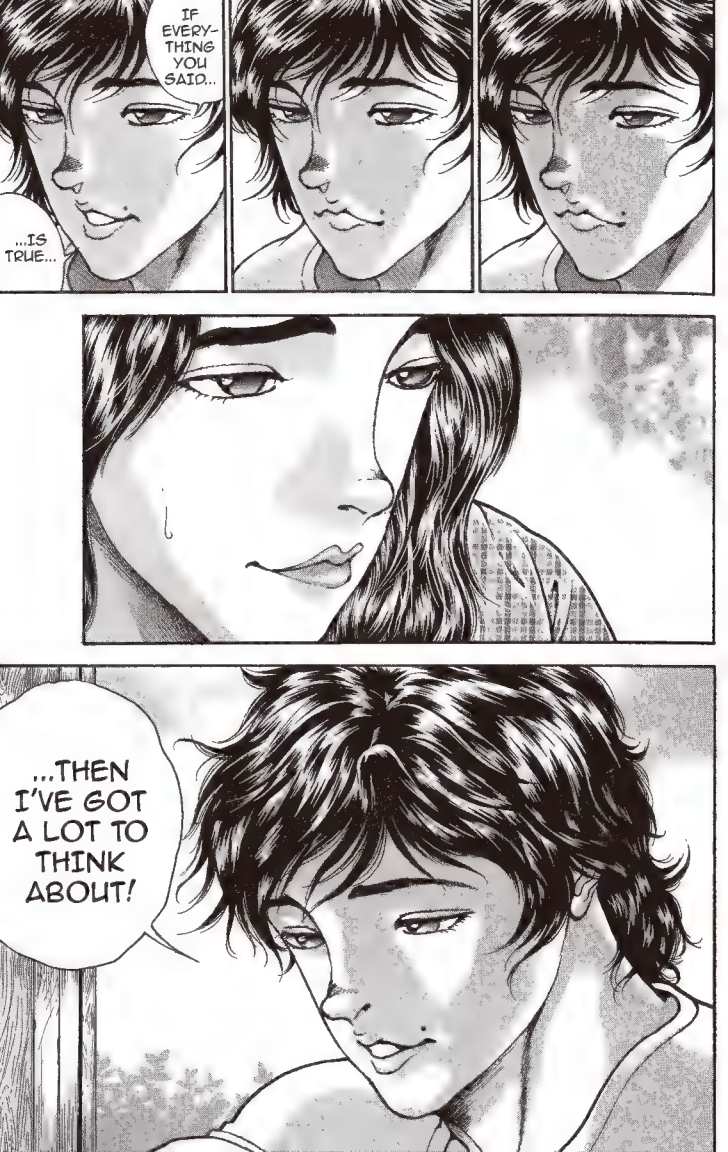


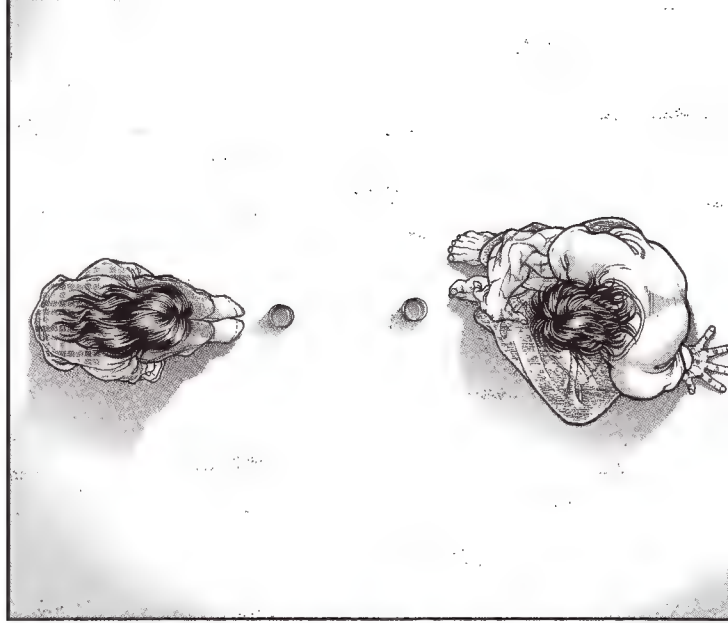

CHAPTER 245
MARRIAGE

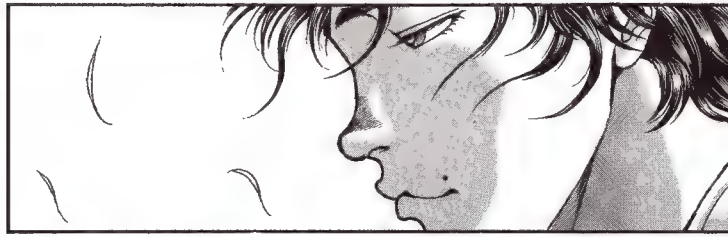
SHOULD I SAY YES?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, BAKI?

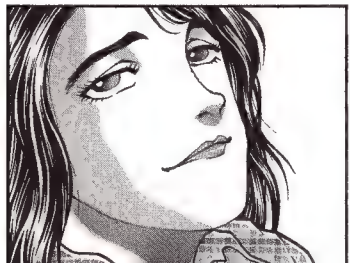



ごく
GULP...

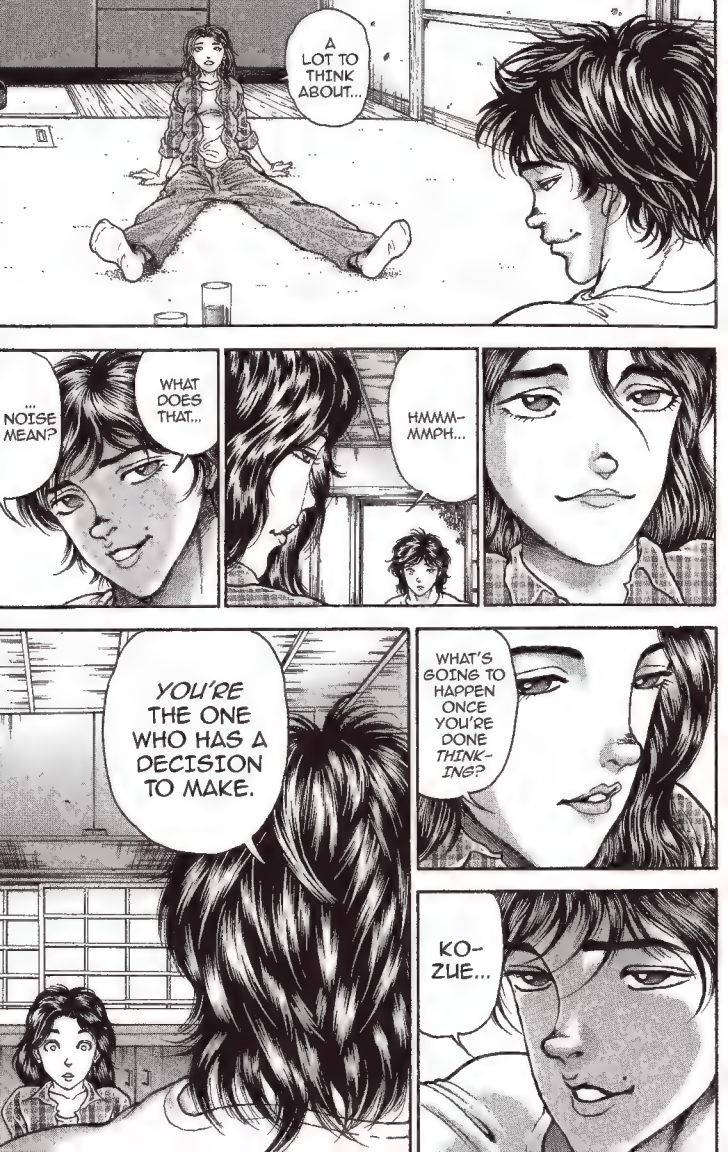

IF EVERY-THING YOU SAID...
...IS TRUE...
...THEN I'VE GOT A LOT TO THINK ABOUT!

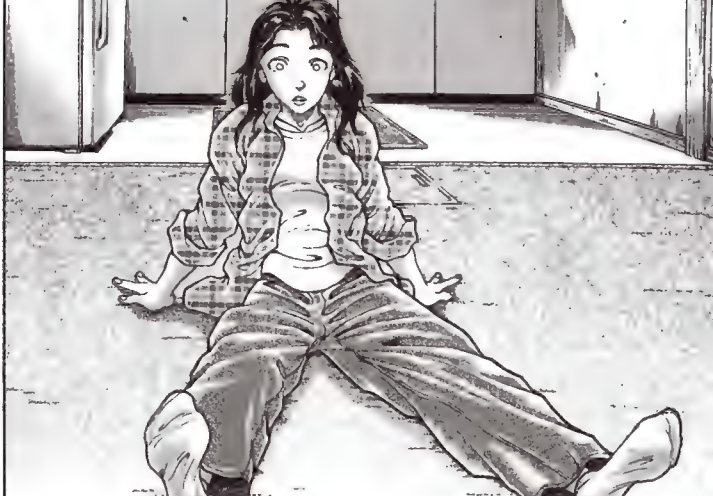


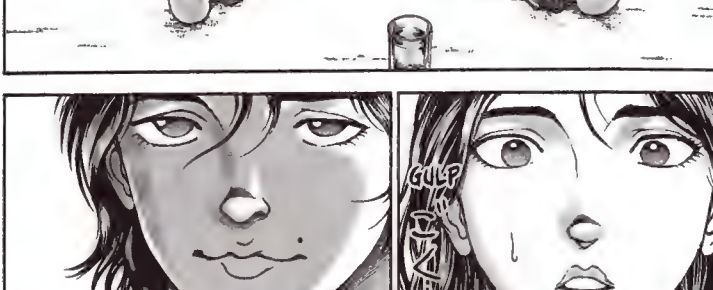




SIGH


A LOT TO THINK ABOUT...
KO-ZUE...
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN ONCE YOU'RE DONE *THINK-ING?*
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS A DECISION TO MAKE.
HMMM-MMPH...
WHAT DOES THAT... NOISE MEAN?

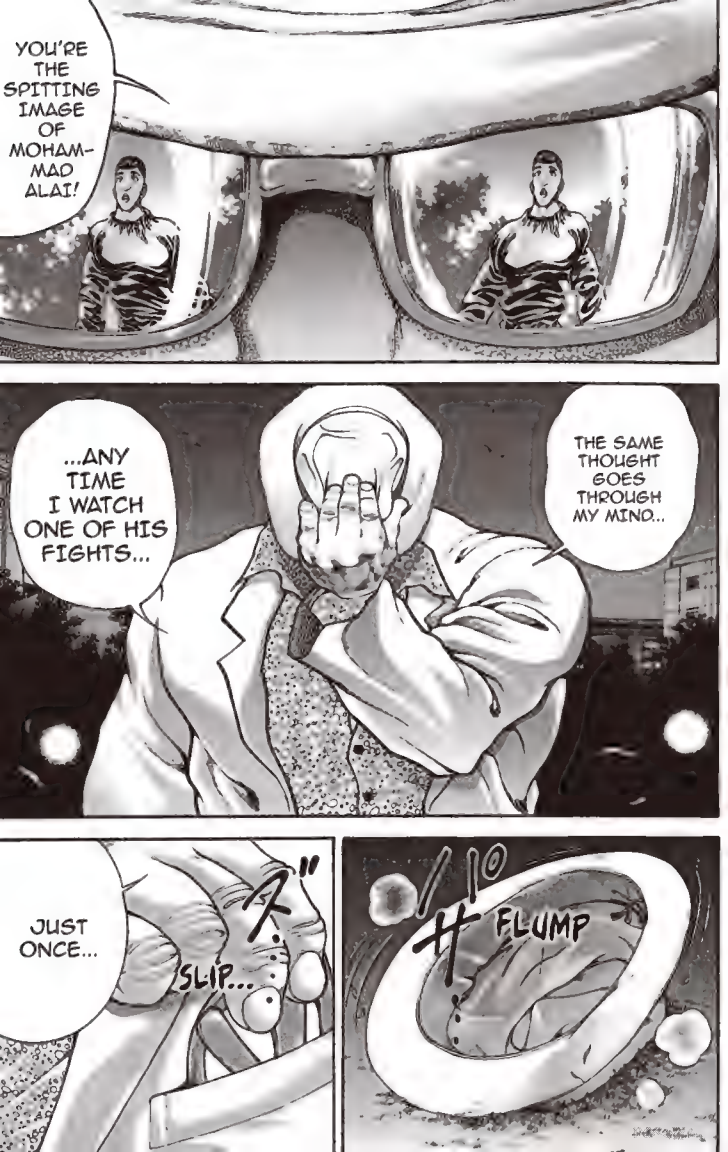


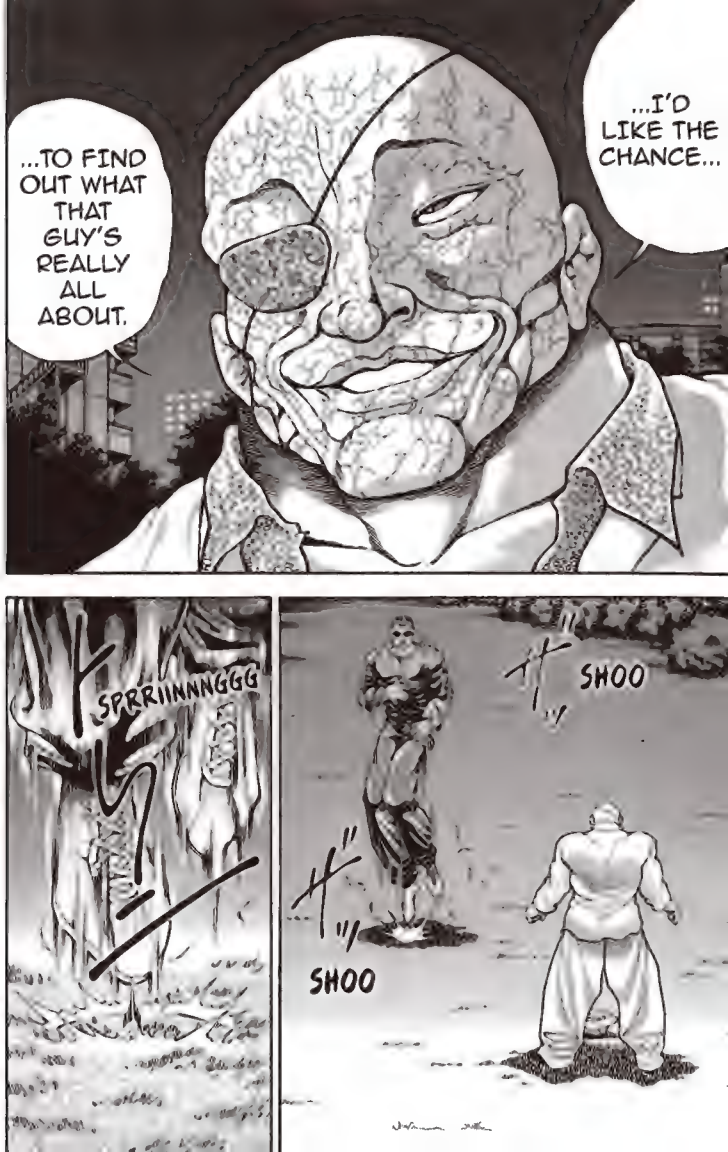

GULP

I'VE GOT NO BUSINESS GETTING INVOLVED.

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
...
SNIGGER
YOU'RE BOTH SO SIMILAR.
IT'S NOT UP TO ME TO DECIDE.
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

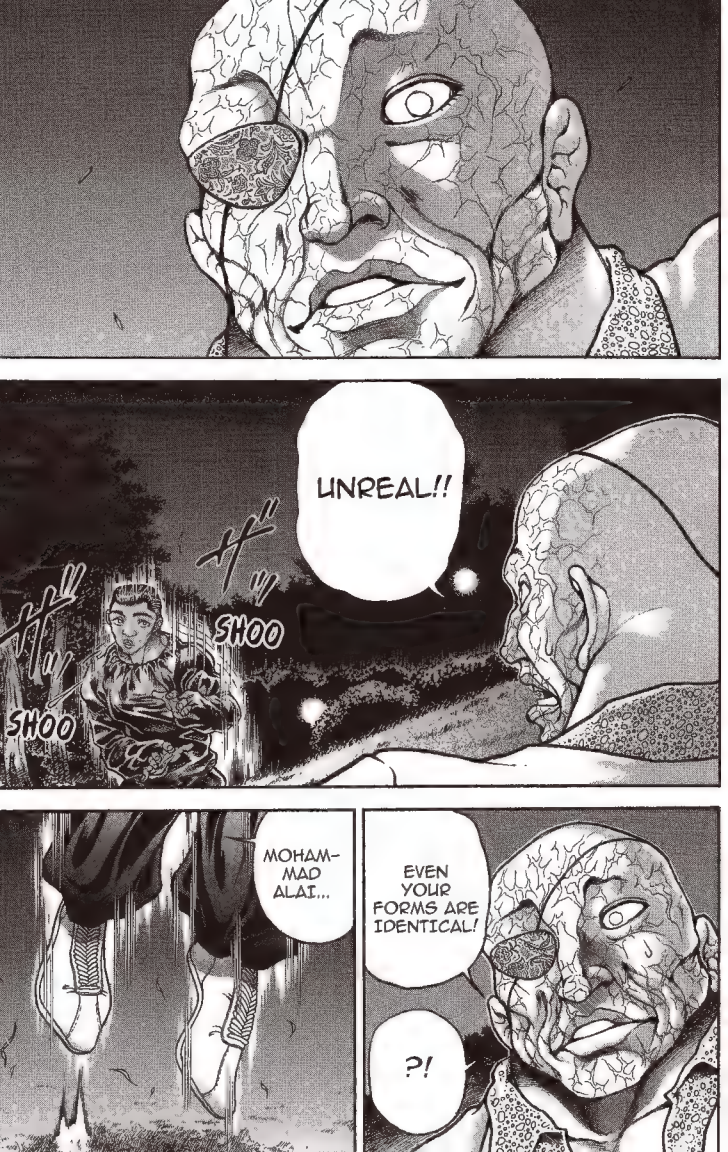
SHOO
SHOO
IMPOS-
SIBLE...
SHOO
SHOO


YOU'RE THE SPITTING IMAGE OF MOHAM-MAD ALAI!
THE SAME THOUGHT GOES THROUGH MY MIND...
...ANY TIME I WATCH ONE OF HIS FIGHTS...
JUST ONCE...
SLIP...
FLUMP


...TO FIND OUT WHAT THAT GUY'S REALLY ALL ABOUT.
...I'D LIKE THE CHANCE...
SPRRIINNNGGG
SHOO
SHOO

NO KICKS...
...HUH?
SHOO
ALL RIGHT, KID..
WE DON'T NEED A BELL.
SHOO

SWOOOMPH
SWOOOMPH
SWOOOMPH


UNREAL!!
SHOO
SHOO
MOHAM-MAD ALAI...
EVEN YOUR FORMS ARE IDENTICAL!
?!

...IS MY DAD.
SHOO
SHOO
SHOO

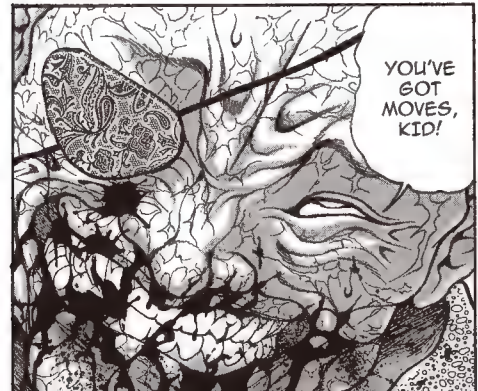
...AND EVOLVED IT INTO A MIXED MARTIAL ART.
I CARRIED ON HIS STYLE...
NAH, TO HELL WITH SENTI-MENTS...
SHOO
SHOO
CRACK
THE APPLE DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM...

I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER!

SHOO
SHOO

DOOMPH
CLACK
FLUNK

SHOOOMMMPPPHHHHH
BADOOOSSSSSSHHHHH


YOU'VE GOT MOVES, KID!

DRIP
DRIP
OHHH...

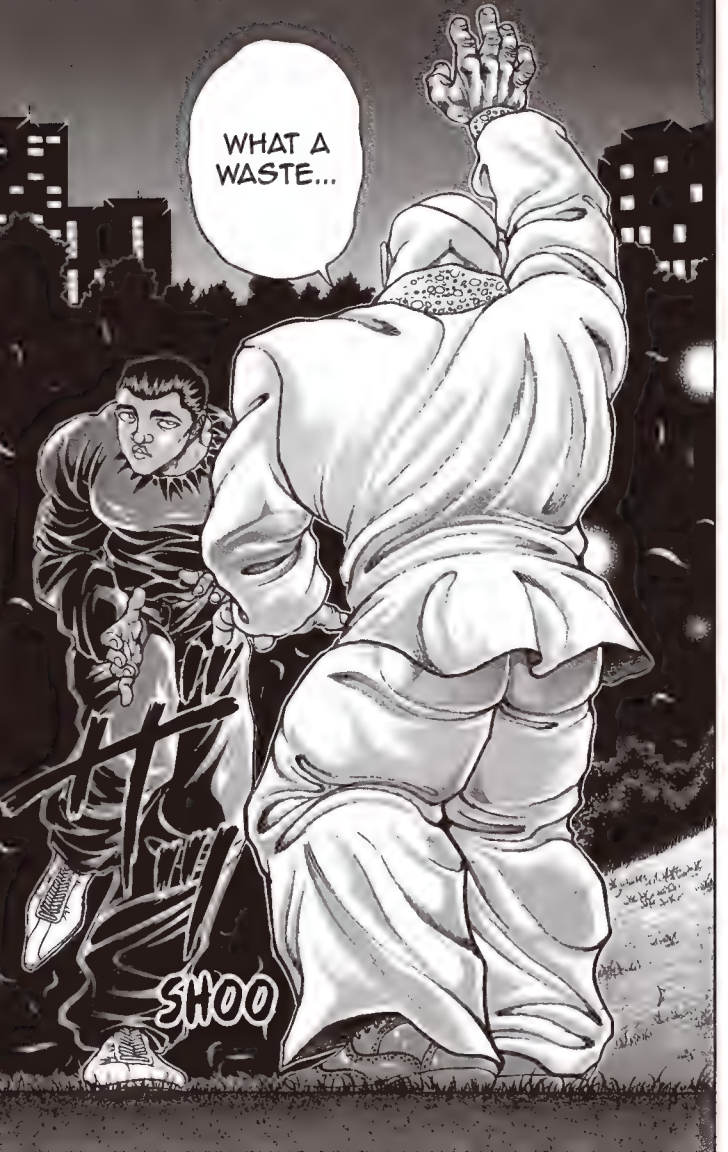
CHAPTER 246
KARATE AND BOXING

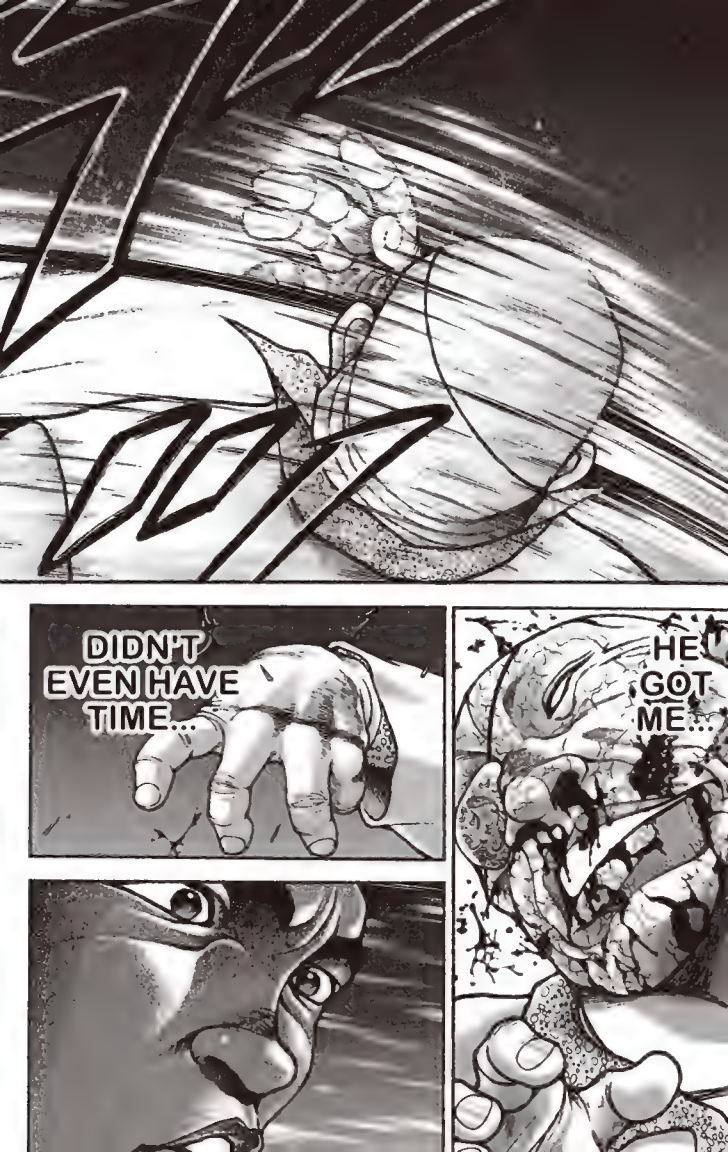
NEW GRAPPLER BAKI

BAKI

MOHAMMAD ALAI VS. DOPPO OROCHI...
SHOO
SHOO
FEELS LIKE WE'RE COMMITTING A CRIME...
PTOOEE

A FIGHT LIKE THIS...
...COULD SELL OUT ANY ARENA IN THE COUNTRY.
SHOO
SHOO
AND HERE WE ARE SQUARING OFF IN AN EMPTY PARK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...
NOT ONE PERSON HERE TO SEE IT.
SHOO
SHOO
SHOO

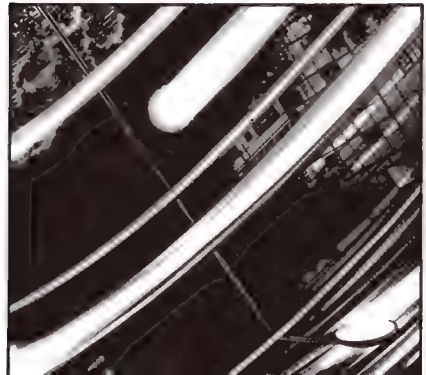

WHAT A WASTE...
SHOO


DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME...
HE GOT ME...

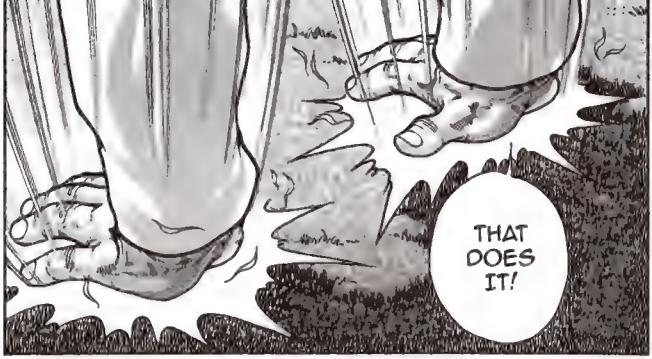
DOOOOSSSSHHHHH
...TO *THINK* ABOUT BLOCKING IT.
SHOO

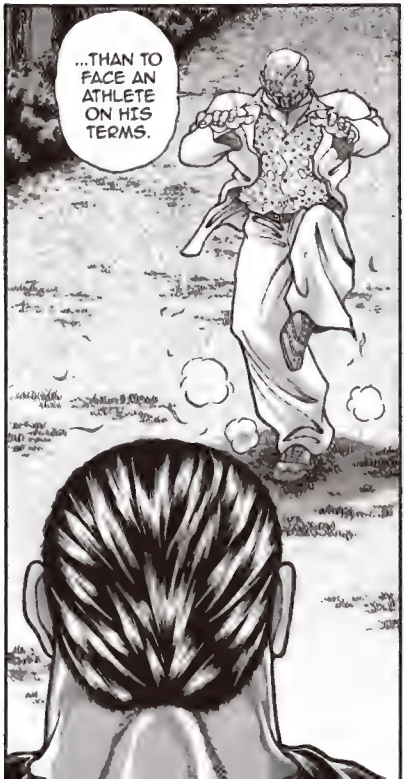
SWOOOOMMMPPPHHHH

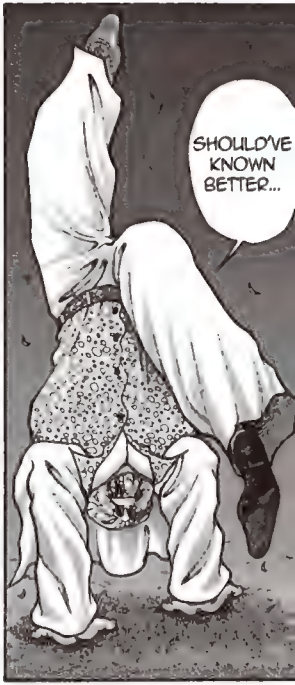
DOOMPH
SHOOOMMMPPPHHHHH



BADOOOMMMMPPHHH


THAT DOES IT!


...THAN TO FACE AN ATHLETE ON HIS TERMS.

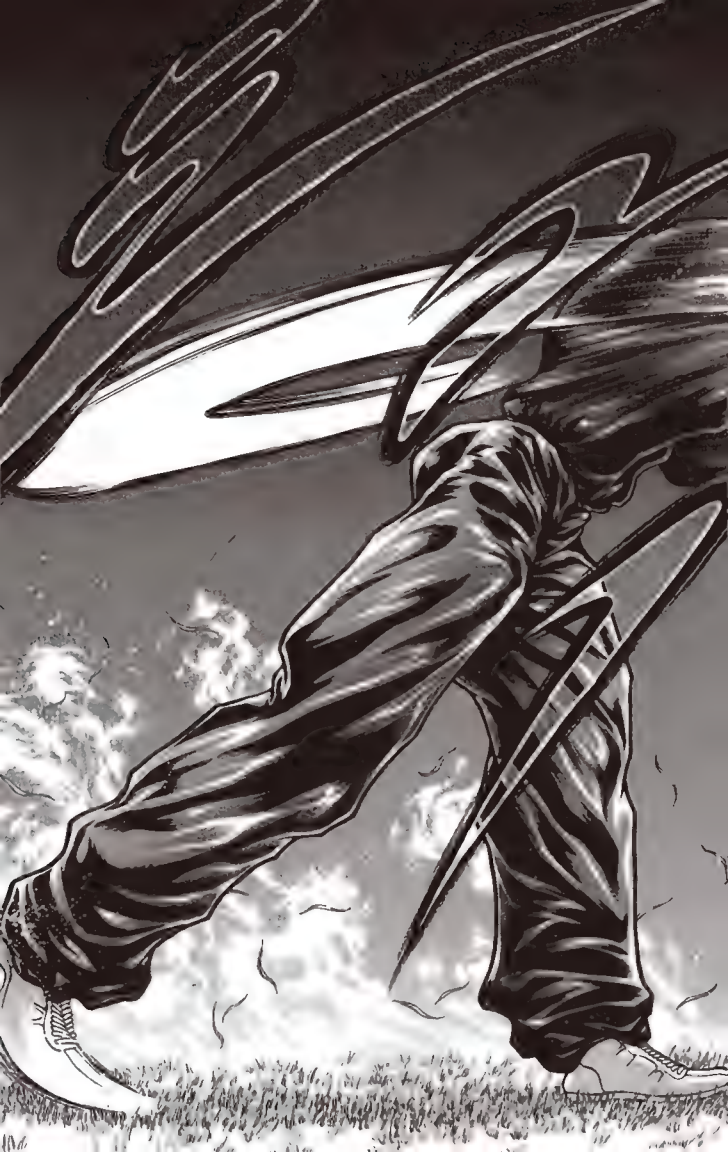

SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER...

DOES THAT MEAN...
...YOU GIVE UP?

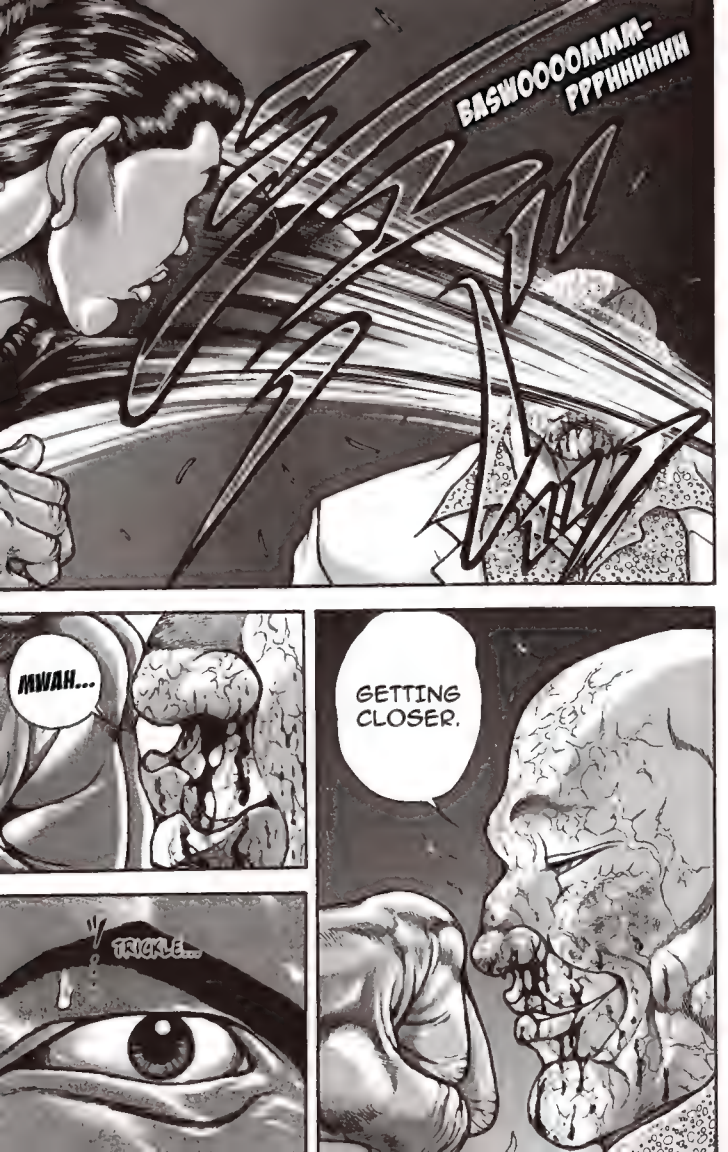
I CAN GO ANOTHER ROUND OR TWO.
HAND POCKET ...
GIVE ME YOUR BEST SHOT!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE!

BASWOOOOOMMMPPPHHHHHHH



...!!
OHH...?
YOU MISSED.


BASWOOOOMMM-
PPPHHHHHH
MWAH...
TRICKLE...
GETTING CLOSER.

SO...
HOW'S YOUR SECOND IMPRES-SION OF ME?
BASHOOOMMMPPPHHHH

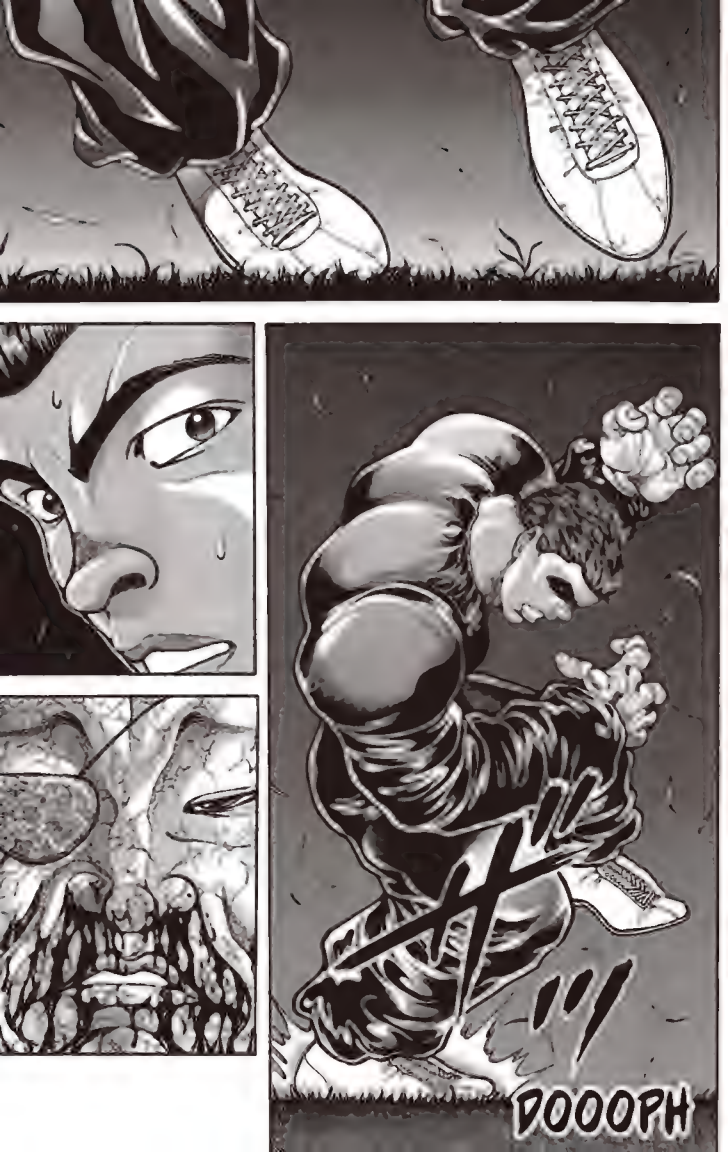
GRUUMMMM-
PPPHHHHH

NEW GRAPPLER BAKI

BAKI

CHAPTER 247
RULES

DOOOMMMPPPHHHHH


DOOOPH

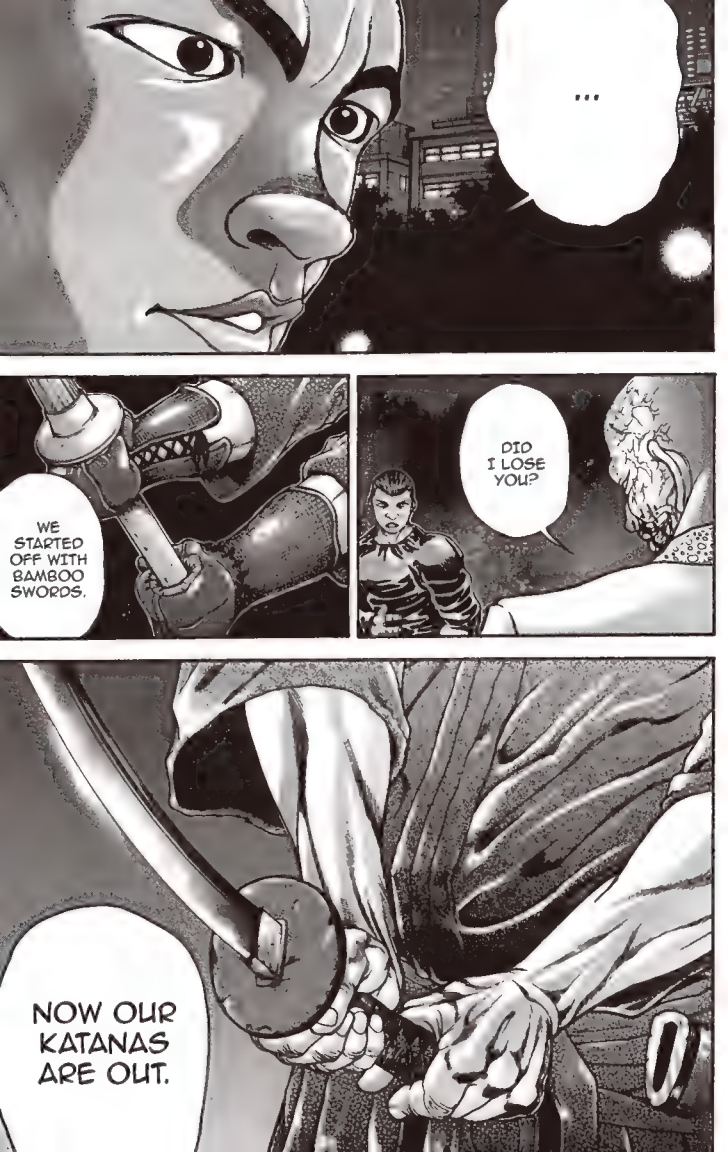
WHY CAN'T I HIT HIM?!

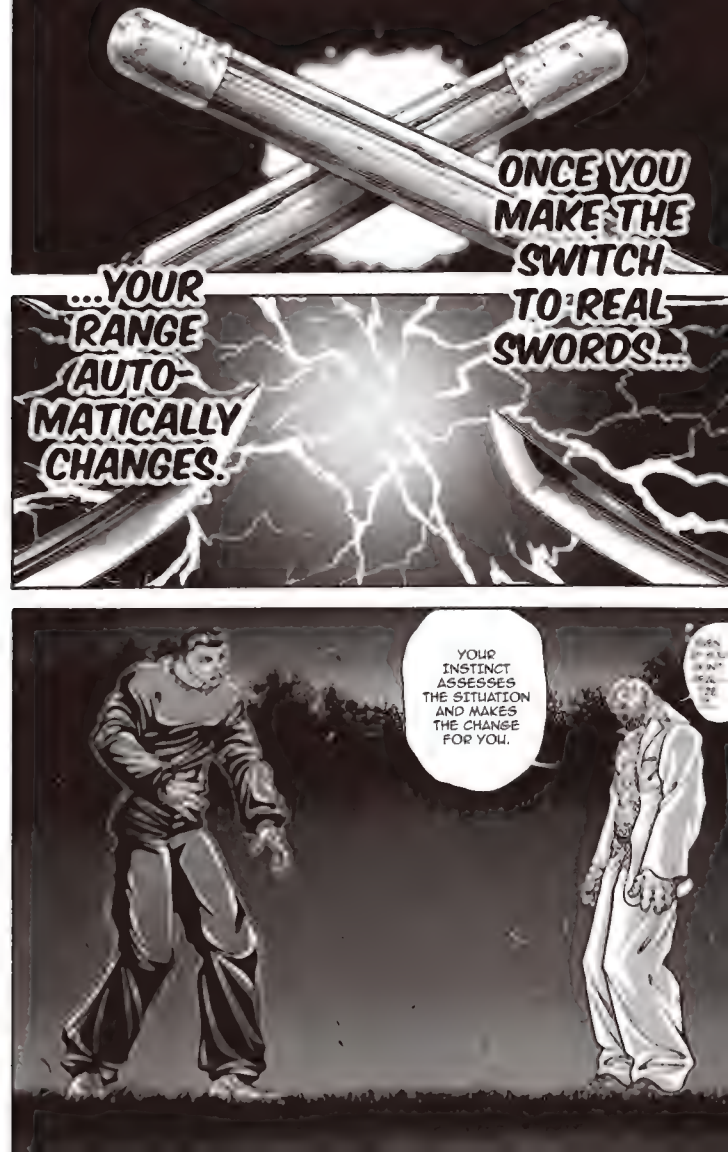
WHAT'S EVEN CRAZIER IS...
HE'S WELL WITHIN MY REACH...

...HE HASN'T MOVED AN INCH!

!!
YOU MISSED.
YOU MISSED ME.
I DIDN'T DODGE YOUR STRIKE.

I CHANGED THE RULES.
...
KENDO...
WE STARTED OFF FIGHTING KENDO STYLE
NOW WE'RE FIGHTING FOR REAL.


...
DID I LOSE YOU?
WE STARTED OFF WITH BAMBOO SWORDS.
NOW OUR KATANAS ARE OUT.


ONCE YOU MAKE THE SWITCH TO REAL SWORDS...
...YOUR RANGE AUTO-MATICALLY CHANGES.
YOUR INSTINCT ASSESSES THE SITUATION AND MAKES THE CHANGE FOR YOU.

MEAN-
ING...
THIS
IS A
DEATH
MATCH.
YEAH...

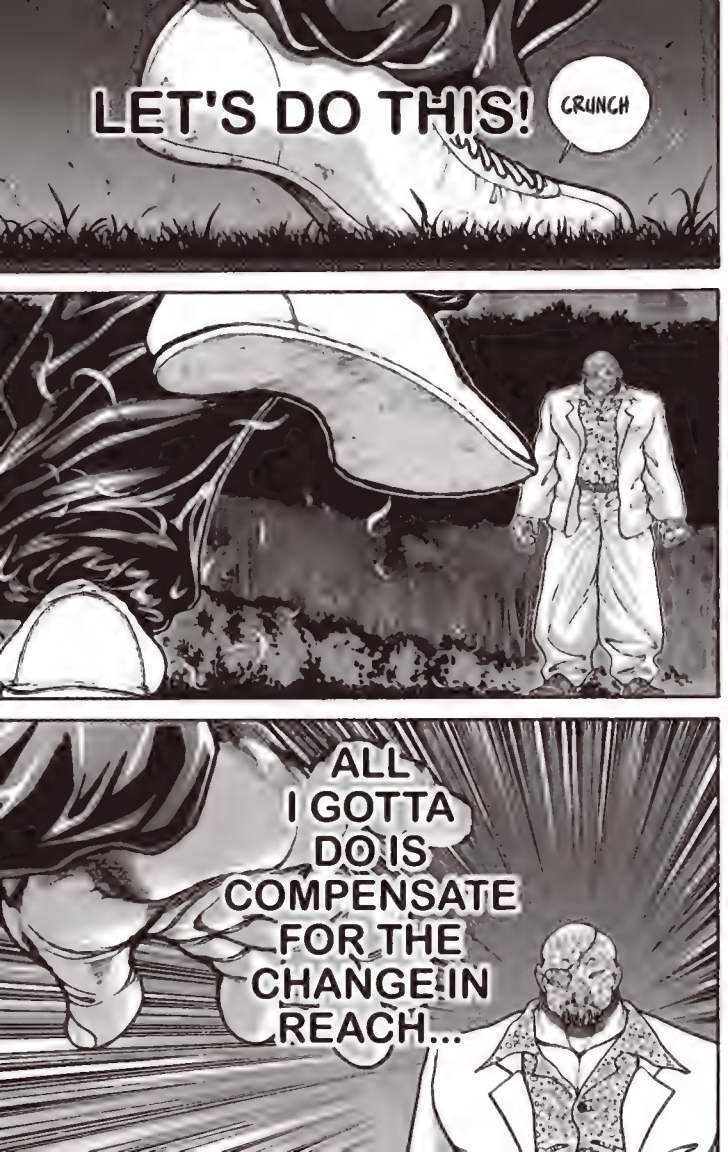
NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON...
SHOO
SHOO
...I CAN SEE THE CHANGE IN HIM.
NOW...
BEFORE HE LOOKED A WHOLE HEAD-HEIGHT SHORTER...

HE'S TURNED INTO A GIANT BEFORE MY EYES!

MY HANDS...
SHOO
SHOO

SHOO
THEY FEEL READY TO TASTE BLOOD...
SHOO

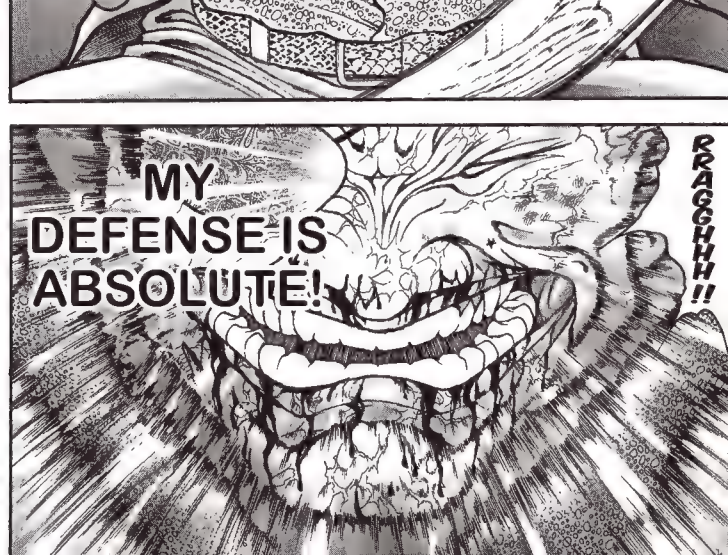
...

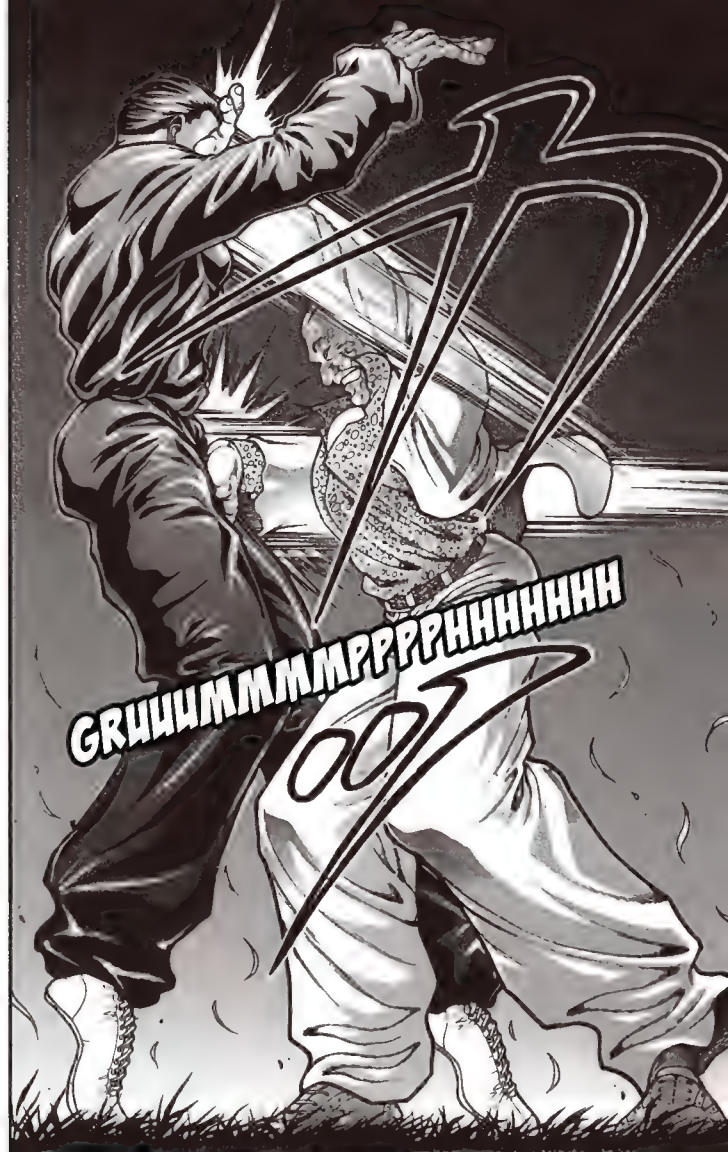

LET'S DO THIS!
CRUNCH
ALL I GOTTA DO IS COMPENSATE FOR THE CHANGE IN REACH...

BASSHHHOOOM-
MMPPPHHHHHH

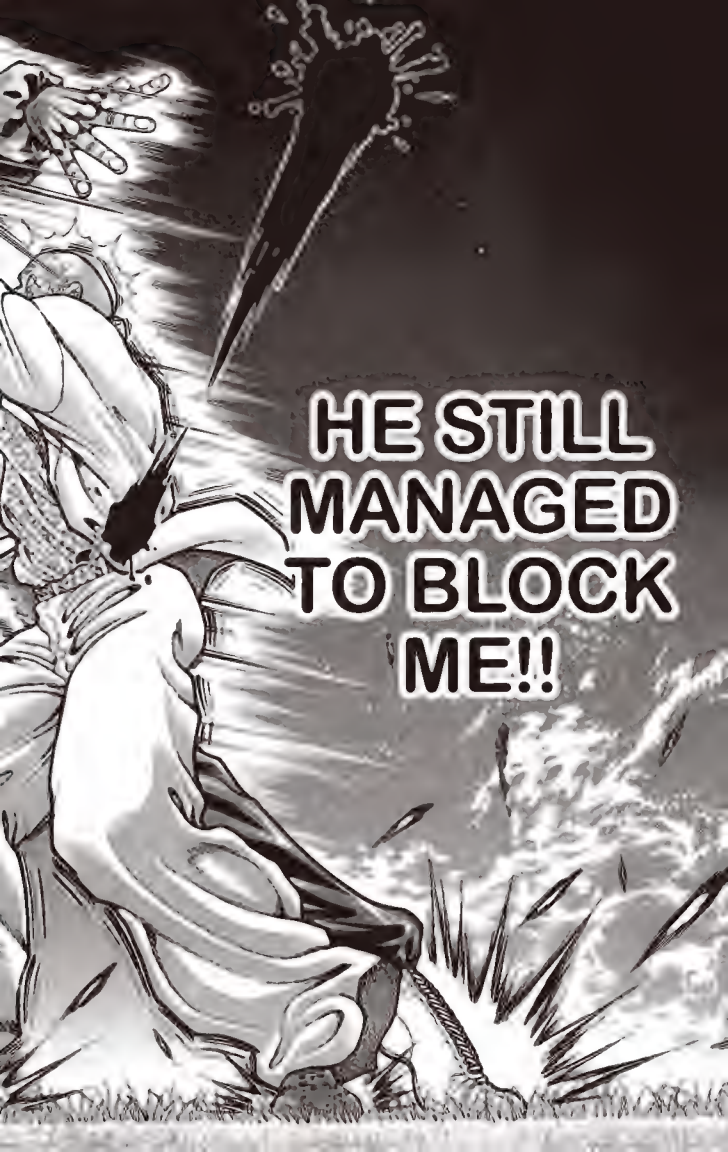
SMAACCCKKKKK
ROTATE

MY HANDS FORM A PERFECT SPHERE...


MY DEFENSE IS ABSOLUTE!
KRAGGHHH!!


GRUUUMMMMPPPPHHHHHHH

AT THIS DISTANCE...
SON OF A...
CHAPTER 248 BEST SHOT
WITH THIS TIMING ...

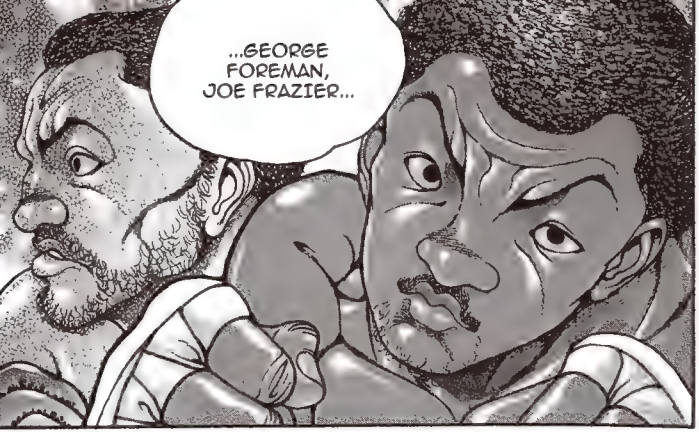

HE STILL MANAGED TO BLOCK ME!!

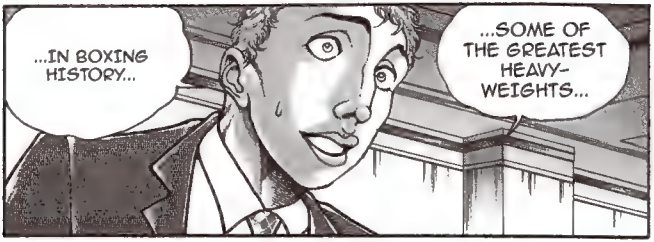
CHAPTER 248
BEST SHOT

SHOOOMMMPPPHHHHH
NOT ONLY THAT...
BUT AT THIS DISTANCE...
...WITH SPLIT-SECOND TIMING...

THWACK
...HE EVEN GOT THE COUNTER...

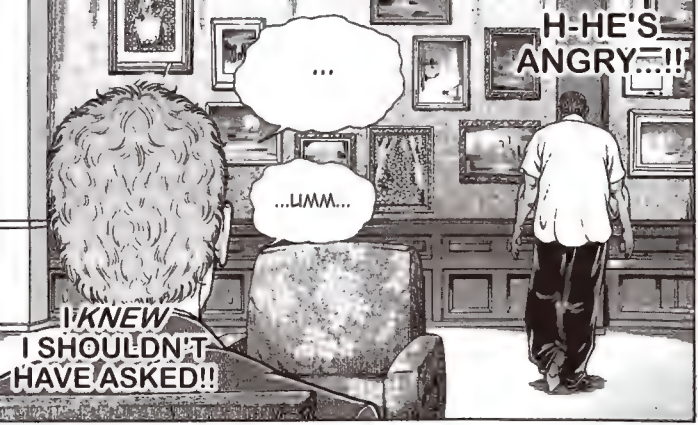
MR. ALAI...
...FORGIVE ME FOR ASKING...
I HOPE YOU CAN...
...BUT I'M A LITTLE CURIOUS...
TAKE FOR EXAMPLE...

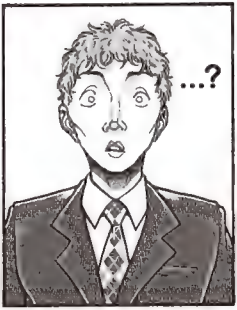

...GEORGE FOREMAN, JOE FRAZIER...

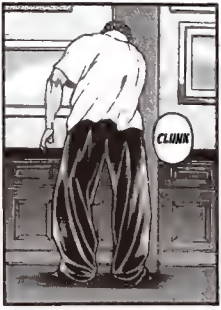

...IN BOXING HISTORY...
...SOME OF THE GREATEST HEAVY-WEIGHTS...

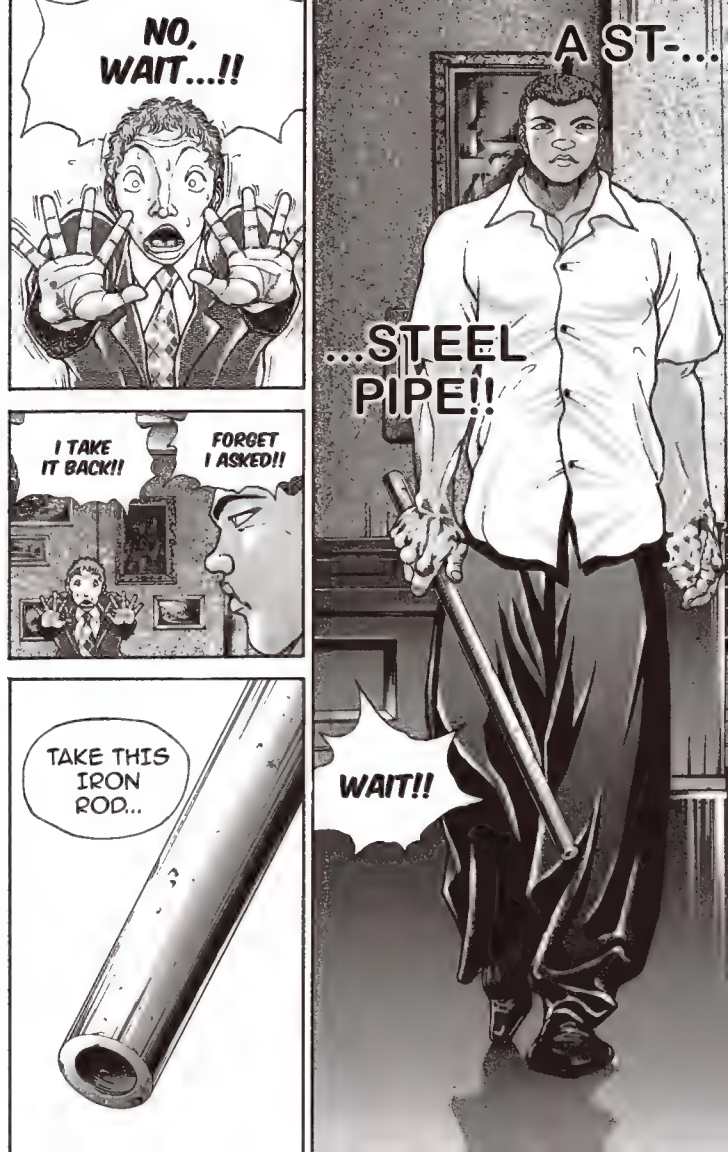
WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO TAKE A CLEAN HIT FROM THEIR BEST SHOT?

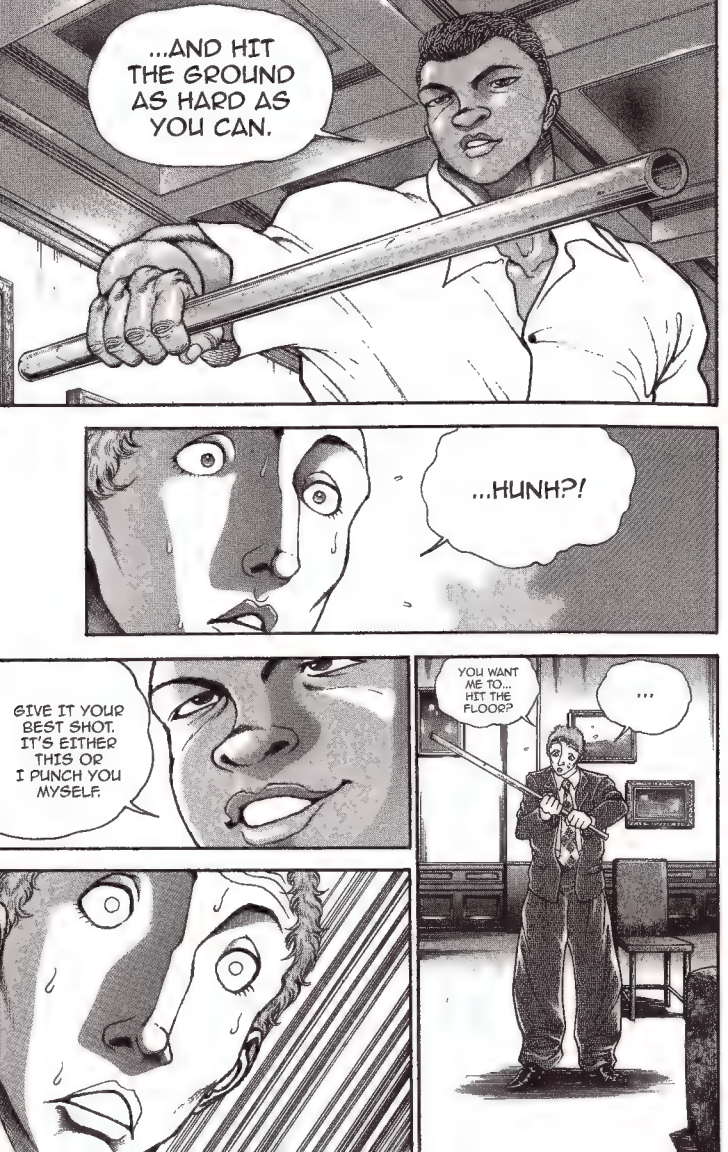
IF YOU COULD TELL ME IN YOUR OWN WORDS...
DID I MAKE HIM MAD?
キミ
SQUEAK


H-HE'S ANGRY.....!!
...
...umm...
I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED!!


...?

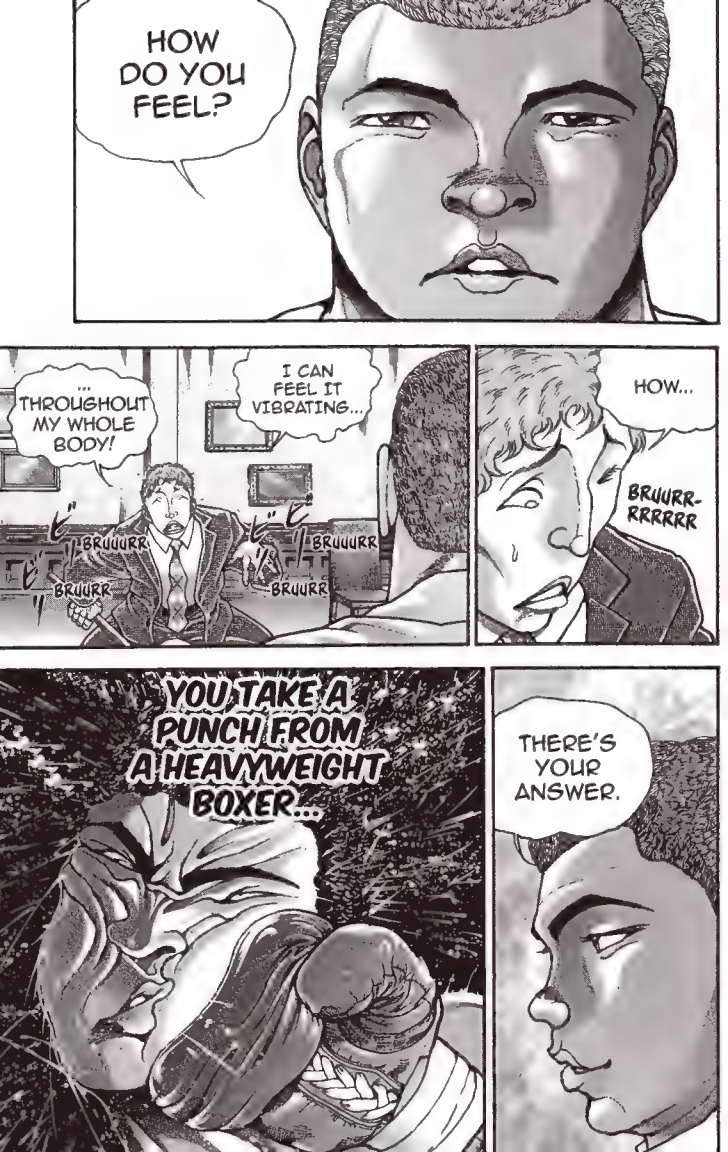

CLUNK


NO, WAIT...!!
I TAKE IT BACK!!
FORGET I ASKED!!
TAKE THIS IRON ROD..
A ST-...
...STEEL PIPE!!
WAIT!!


...AND HIT THE GROUND AS HARD AS YOU CAN.
...HUNH?!
GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT. IT'S EITHER THIS OR I PUNCH YOU MYSELF.
YOU WANT ME TO... HIT THE FLOOR??
...

BADOOOMMMMPPHHH

CLAAAAAANNNNNNGGGGGGG
BRURRRR
BRURRRR
BRURRRR
BRUUURRRR
BRUUURRRR
BRURRRR


HOW DO YOU FEEL?
... THROUGHOUT MY WHOLE BODY!
I CAN FEEL IT VIBRATING...
BRUUURR
BRUUURR
BRUUURR
BRUUURR
HOW...
BRUURR-RRRRRR
YOU TAKE A PUNCH FROM A HEAVYWEIGHT BOXER...
THERE'S YOUR ANSWER.

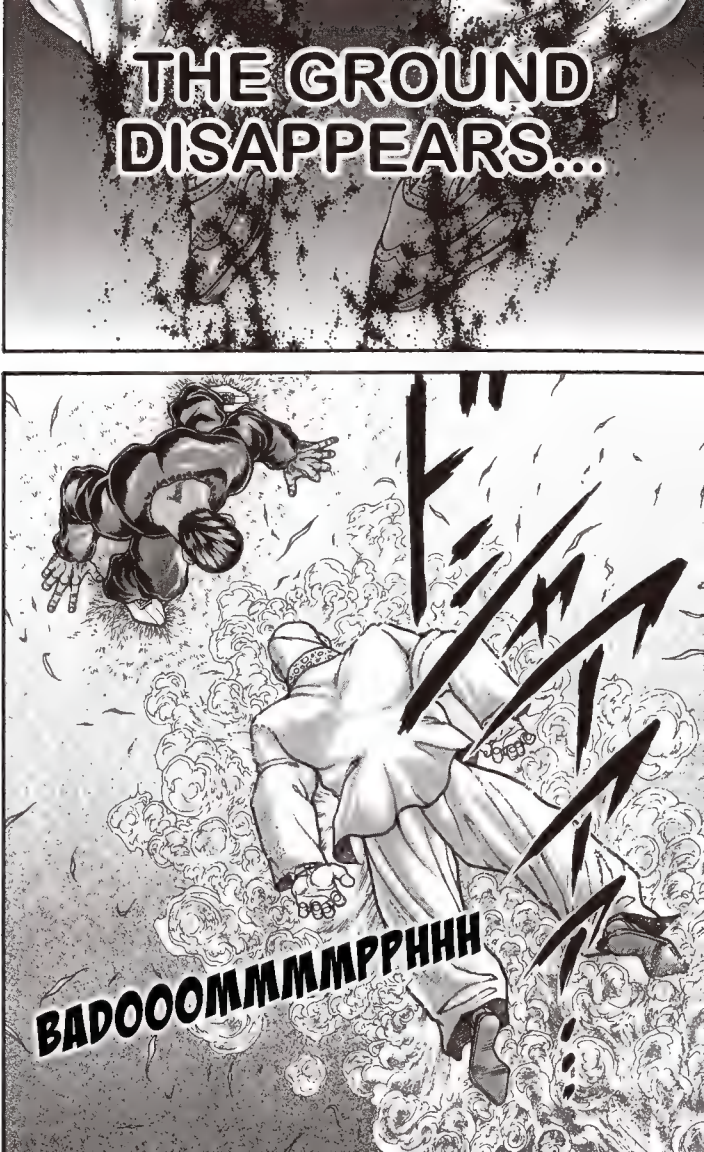
...YOU'RE GOING TO FEEL IT RUNNING THROUGH EVERY PART OF YOUR BODY.
MY...
...MY WHOLE BODY...
IT FEELS A LITTLE LIKE...

...FROM YOUR TOES TO YOUR HEAD.
...A MILLION ANTS CRAWLING THEIR WAY UP...
DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?

A CLEAN STRIKE...
I'M ALL TOO FAMILIAR WITH THIS...

AND THAT TIME...
JUST LIKE IT WAS THAT TIME...
THAT'S HOW YOU KNOW YOUR BRAIN'S TAKEN A HIT...
THESE GUYS...

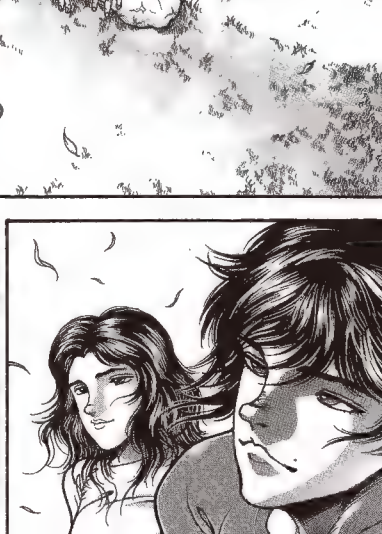
...START
TO TAKE
OVER...

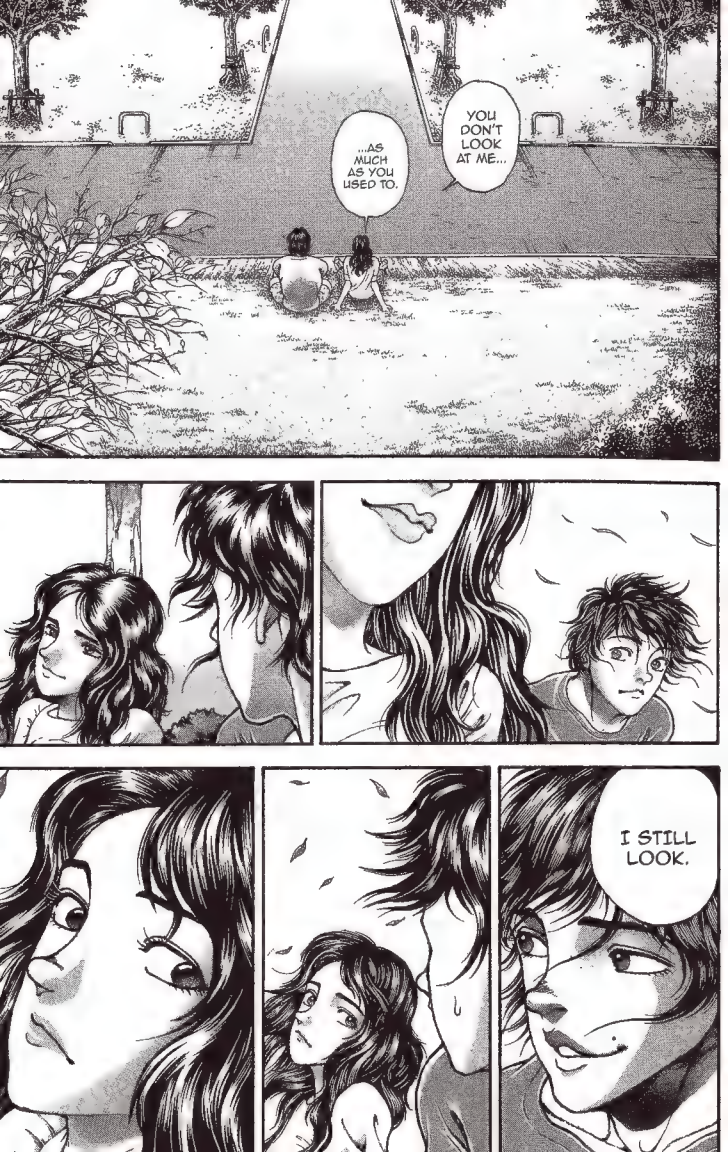

THE GROUND DISAPPEARS...
BADOOOMMMMPPHHH

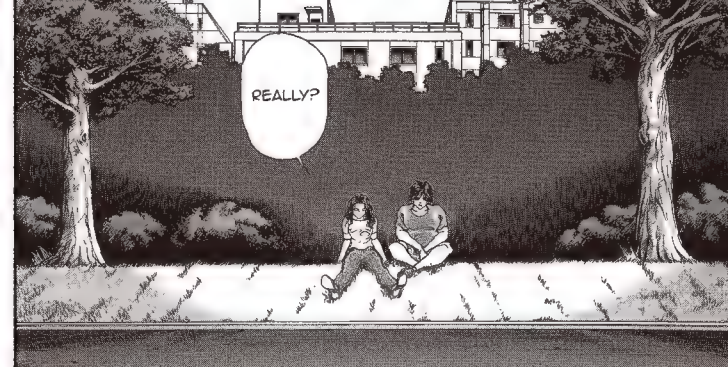
CHAPTER 249
PROPOSAL

FWOOOOAAAAAHHHHHHHH

BAKI...

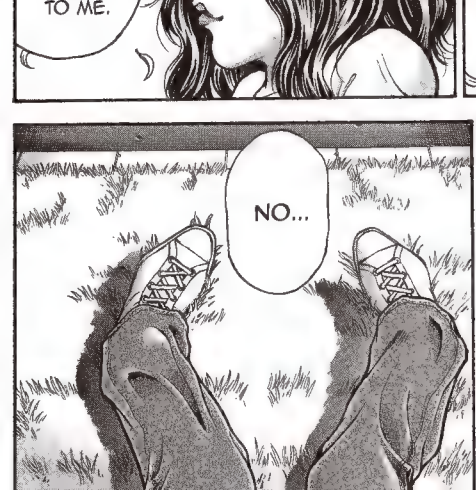


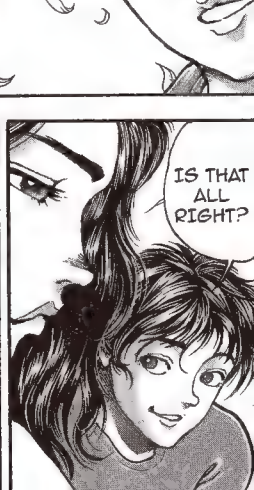

YOU DON'T LOOK AT ME...
...AS MUCH AS YOU USED TO.
I STILL LOOK.

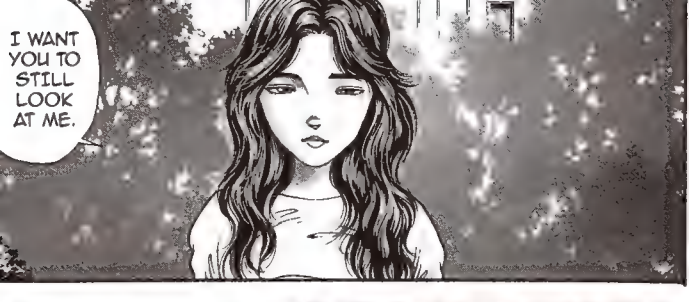

REALLY?

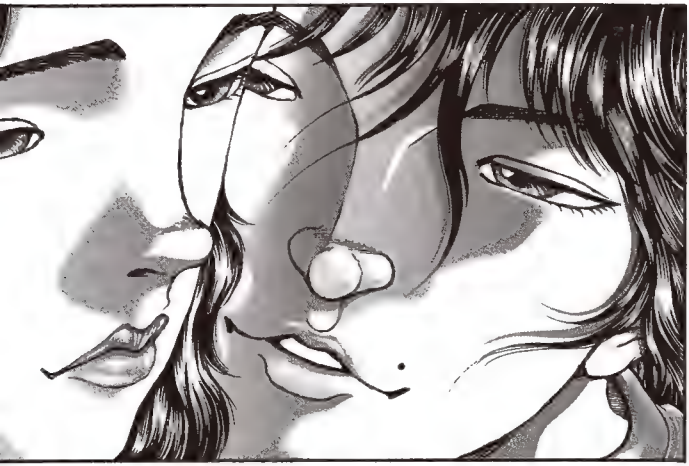
...MORE LIKE FEELING YOU NEXT TO ME.
IT'S NOT SO MUCH LOOKING...

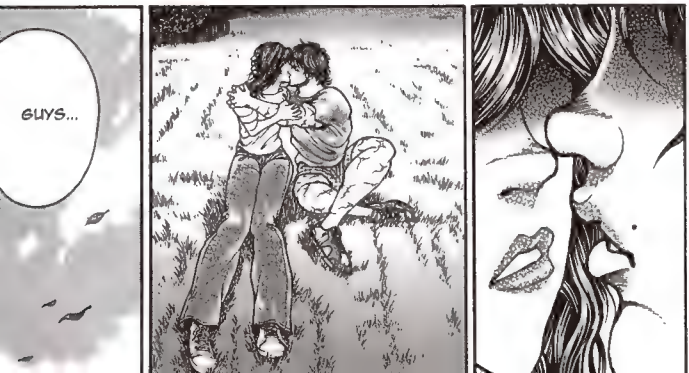
WELL...


NO...

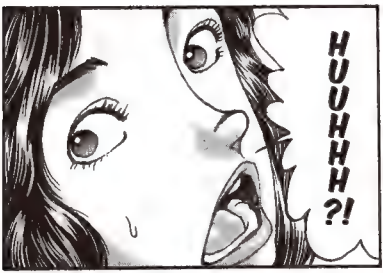

IS THAT ALL RIGHT?

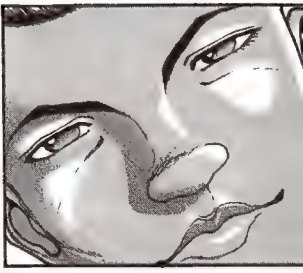

I WANT YOU TO STILL LOOK AT ME.

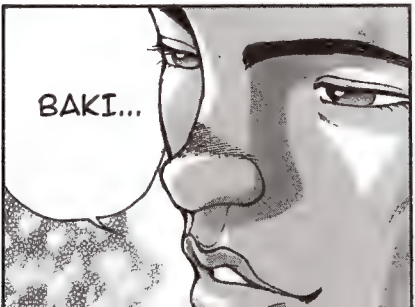


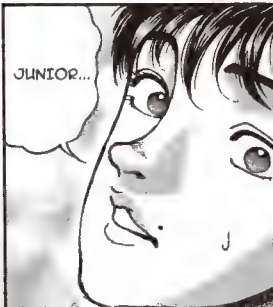

GUYS...

YOU MIND IF I JOIN YOU?


HUUHHH?!



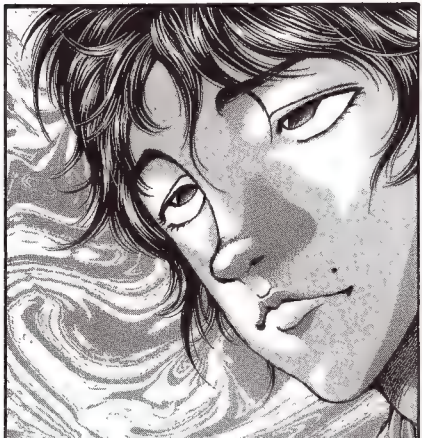

BAKI...

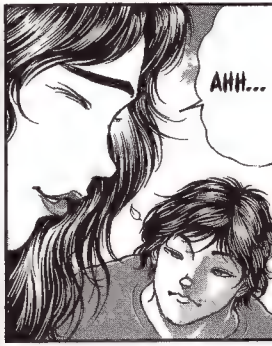

JUNIOR...

DID YOU HEAR I'M GOING TO MARRY KOZUE?
!!
HA HA HA HA HA!!
SNORT

HA HA HA!!
OF ALL THE TIMES TO BRING THAT UP!!

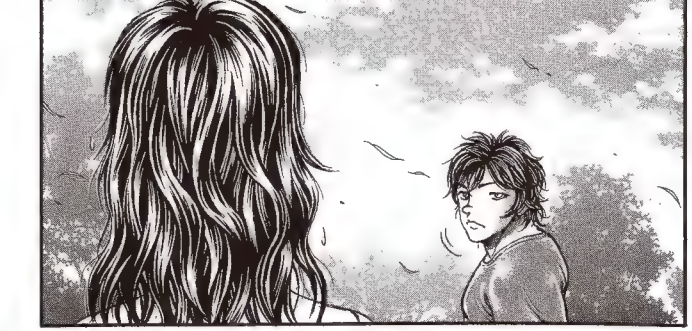
BUT I CAN'T HELP FEELING A LITTLE HAPPY.



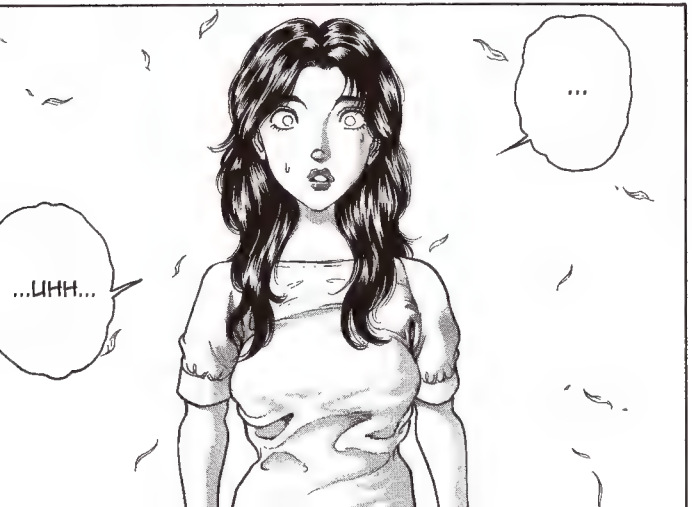

AHH...

DO YOU REALLY...
...WANT TO MARRY KOZUE, OR IS THIS JUST TO HELP YOU REACH ANOTHER GOAL...
..LIKE GETTING TO ME?
...

...DIGNIFY THAT POINTLESS QUESTION WITH AN ANSWER?
DO I REALLY HAVE TO...
LET ME SAY IT AGAIN...
I WANT TO MARRY KOZUE.

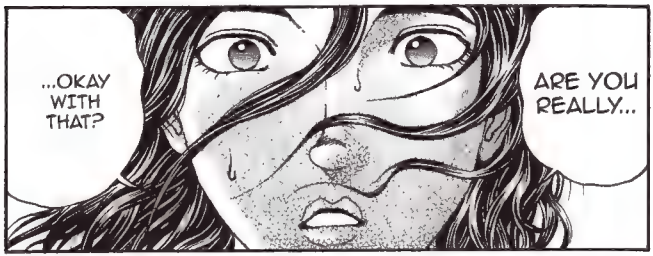


I'M NOT HER KEEPER!
THEN WHAT ARE YOU TELLING ME FOR?

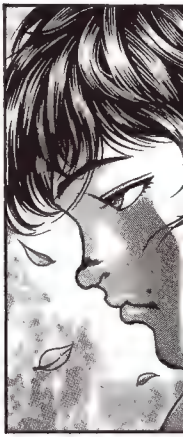

...
...UHH...

SHE ISN'T YOURS.
SO YOU ADMIT IT...
YEAH, YOU ARE.
I'M BAKI'S GIRL-FRIEND.
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ANYONE ELSE.
BUT THAT'S SOMETHING THE TWO OF US AGREED ON.

IT DOESN'T STOP ANY OTHER GUYS FROM LIKING YOU.
AND IF THEY WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, THEY'RE FREE TO ASK YOU OUT.
IT'S UP TO YOU TO DECIDE WHO'S BEST FOR YOU.
...KOZUE...
IF YOU DECIDE I'M NOT THE ONE FOR YOU...
THEN YOU'RE FREE TO LOOK ELSEWHERE.

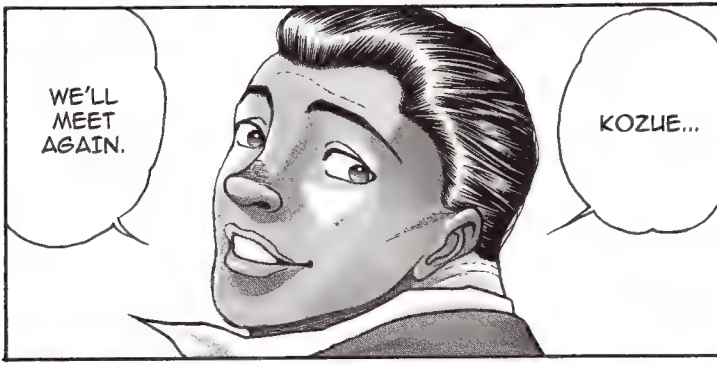

...OKAY WITH THAT?
ARE YOU REALLY...

EVERY MAN AND WOMAN ALIVE IS A PART OF IT.
IT'S ALL ONE BIG CONTEST.

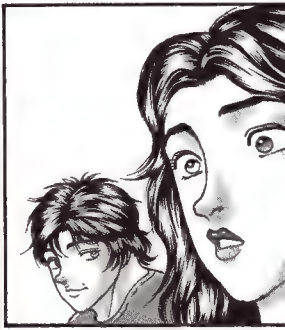


THAT'S HOW I FEEL ABOUT IT.
OKAY...

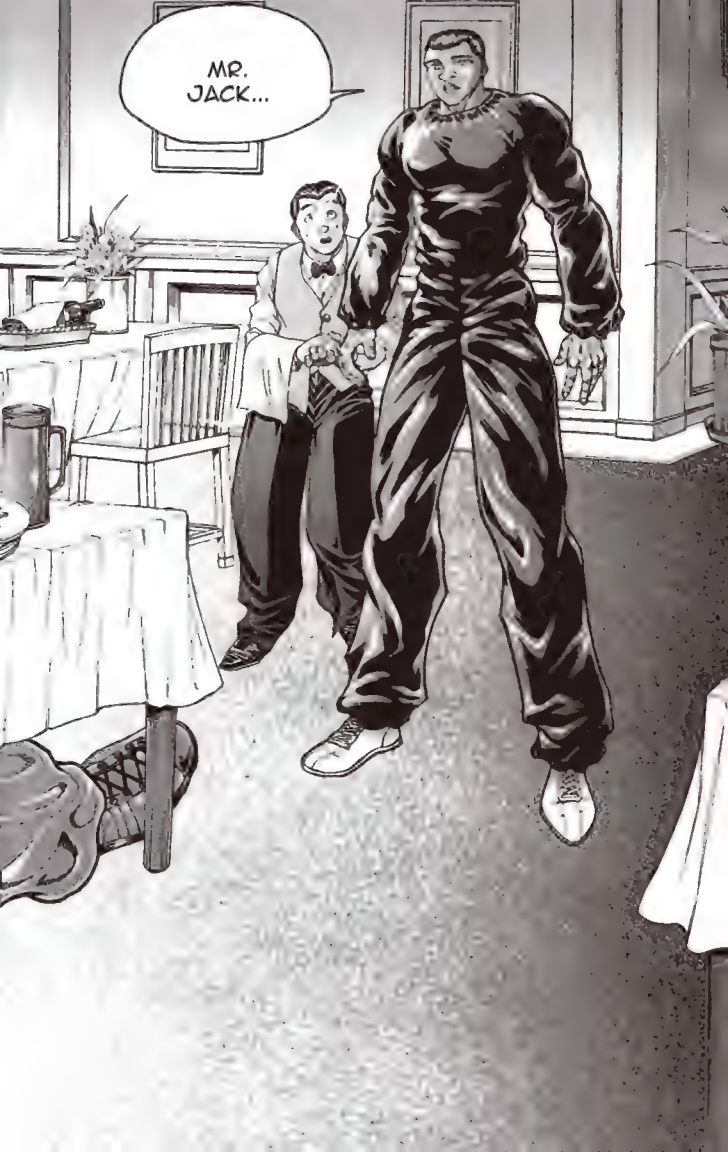
SOUNDS FAIR TO ME.


WE'LL MEET AGAIN.
KOZUE...

SO...



THAT WAS THE GUY!
モグ…
CHEW
モグ!!
CHEW
NUMGGHH

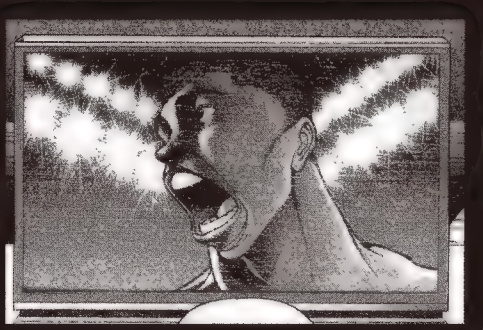

MR.
JACK...

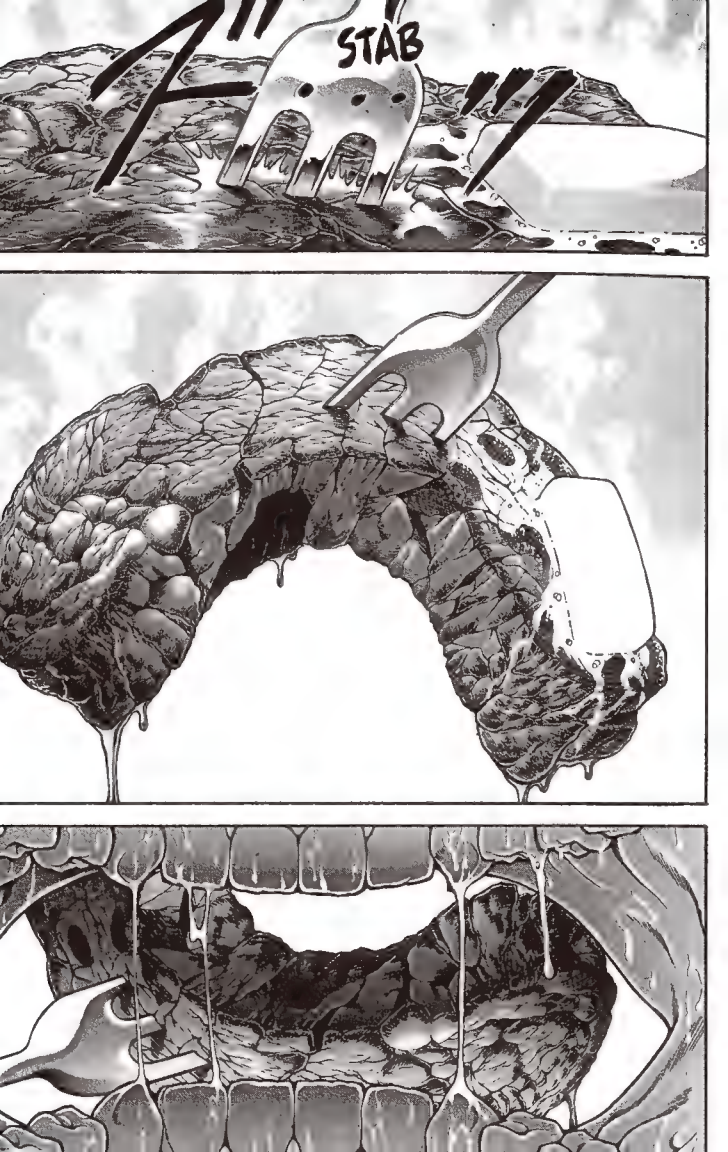
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.
HOLD ON TILL I'M DONE EATING.

CHAPTER 250
ANOTHER HANMA

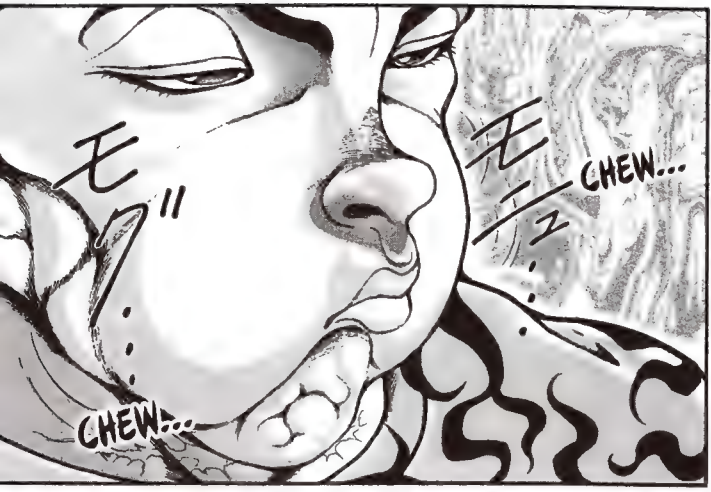
NEW GRAPPLER BAKI

BAKI

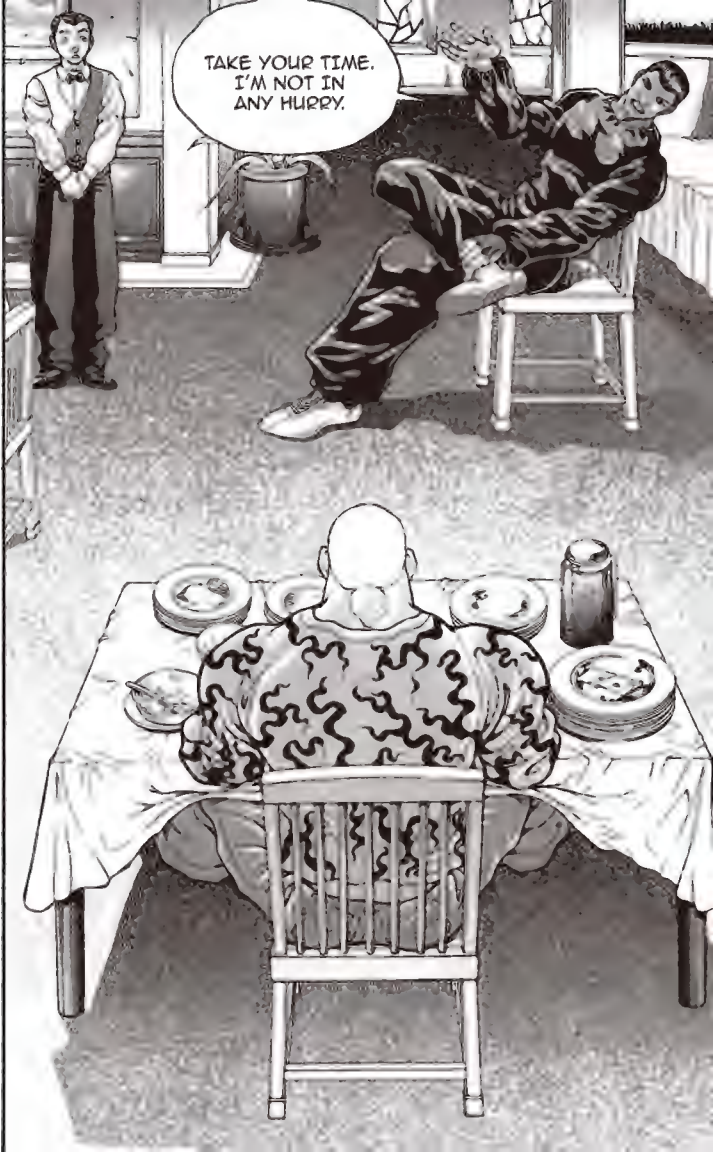



STAB

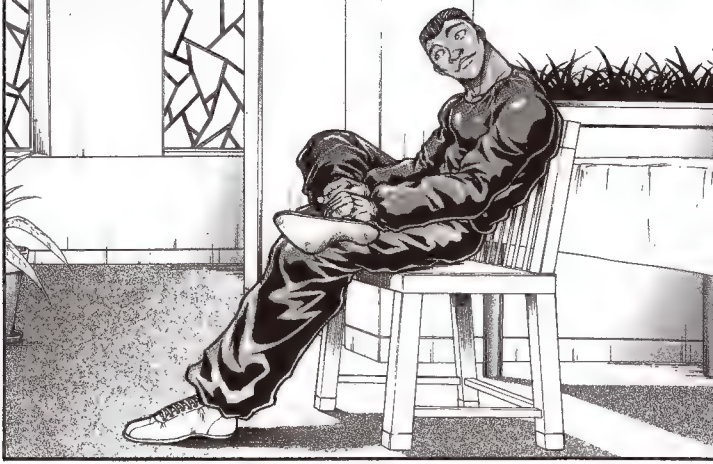
CHOMP
SLURP
SQUEEEZZLEEEE


CHEW...
CHEW...

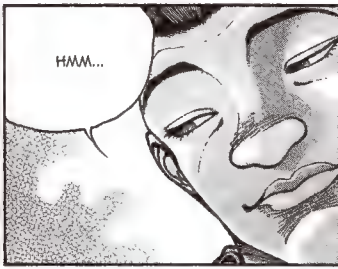
CHEW...
CHEW...

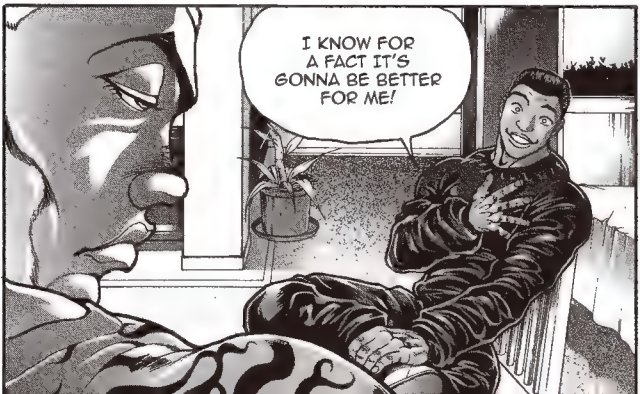

TAKE YOUR TIME. I'M NOT IN ANY HURRY.

CLINK
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I DIDN'T RUSH IT FOR YOU.
I JUST HAD A FEELING SOMETHING EVEN BETTER WAS WAITING FOR ME.

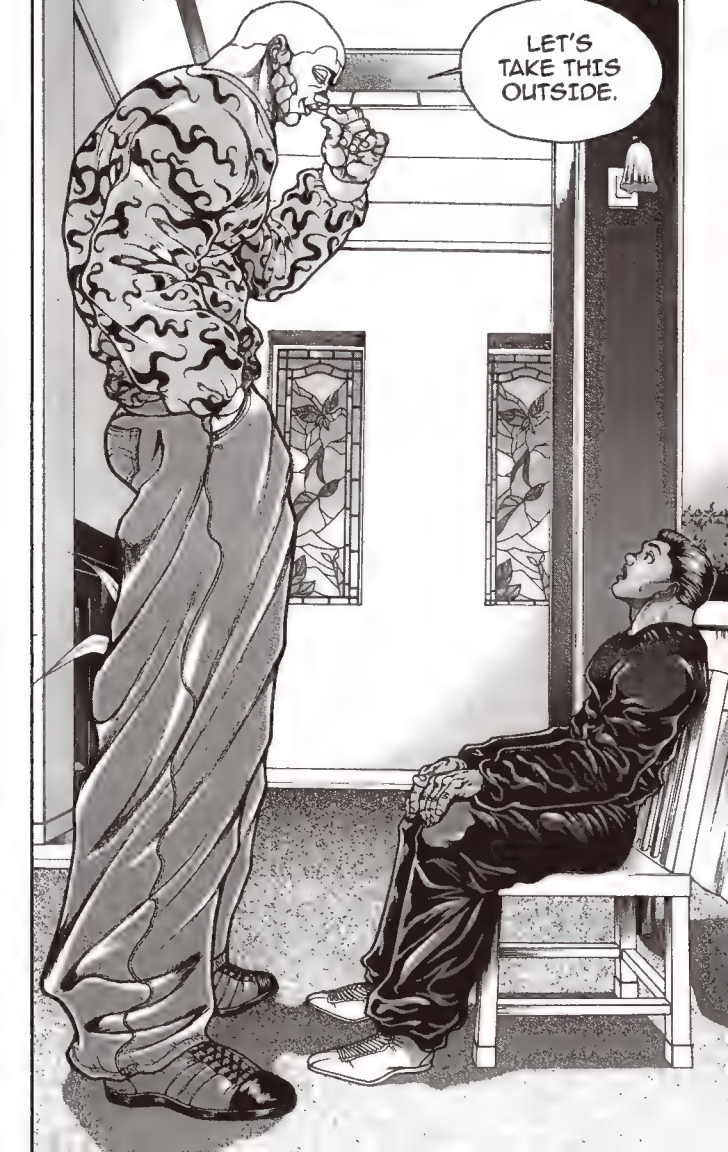


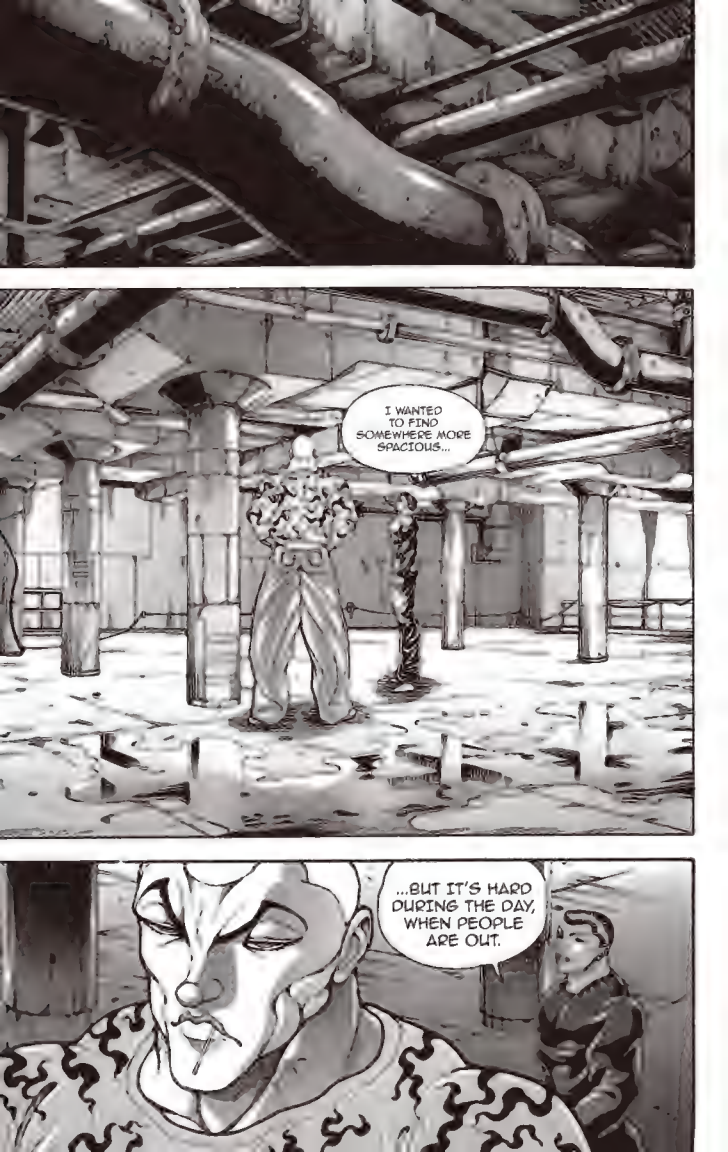
THAT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU CONSIDER BETTER THAN A STEAK.

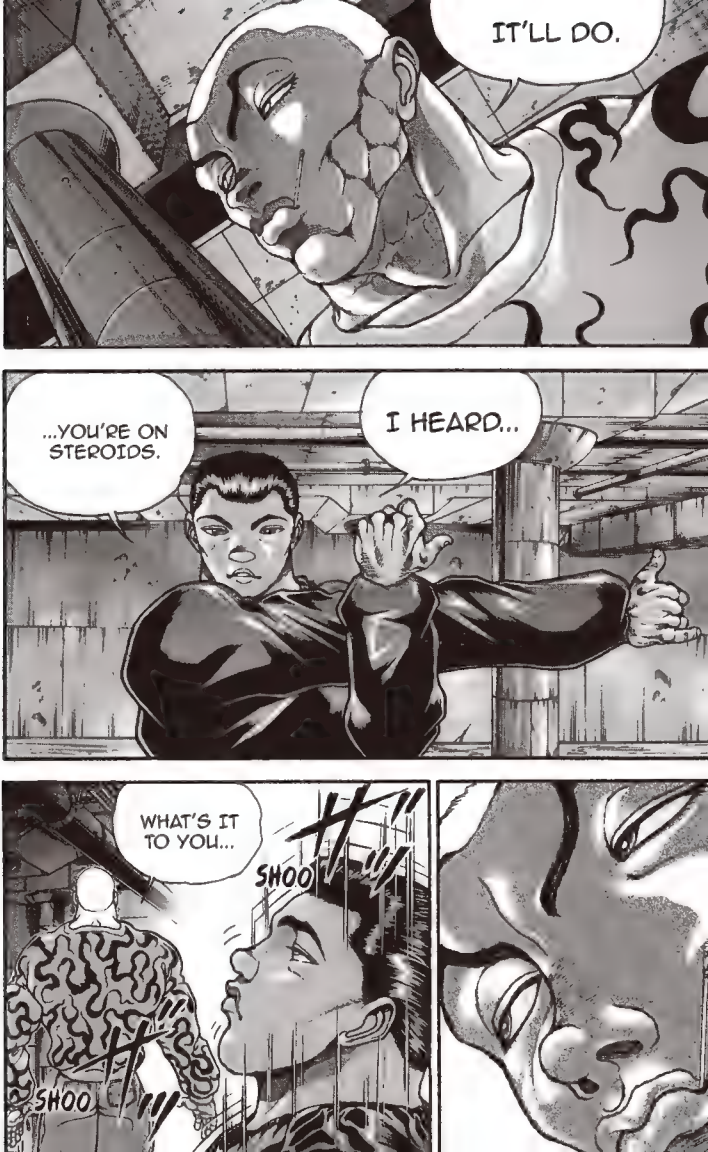

HMM...


I KNOW FOR A FACT IT'S GONNA BE BETTER FOR ME!

I'M HERE TO FIND OUT IF YOU FEEL THE SAME.


LET'S TAKE THIS OUTSIDE.


I WANTED TO FIND SOMEWHERE MORE SPACIOUS...
...BUT IT'S HARD DURING THE DAY, WHEN PEOPLE ARE OUT.


IT'LL DO.
I HEARD...
...YOU'RE ON STEROIDS.
WHAT'S IT TO YOU...
SHOO
SHOO

...IF I AM?
NOTHING...
SHOO
SHOO
SHOOMPH
...GET TO WHERE YOU ARE TODAY...
SHOOMPH
STEROIDS ARE WHAT HELPED YOU...
SHOO
SHOO

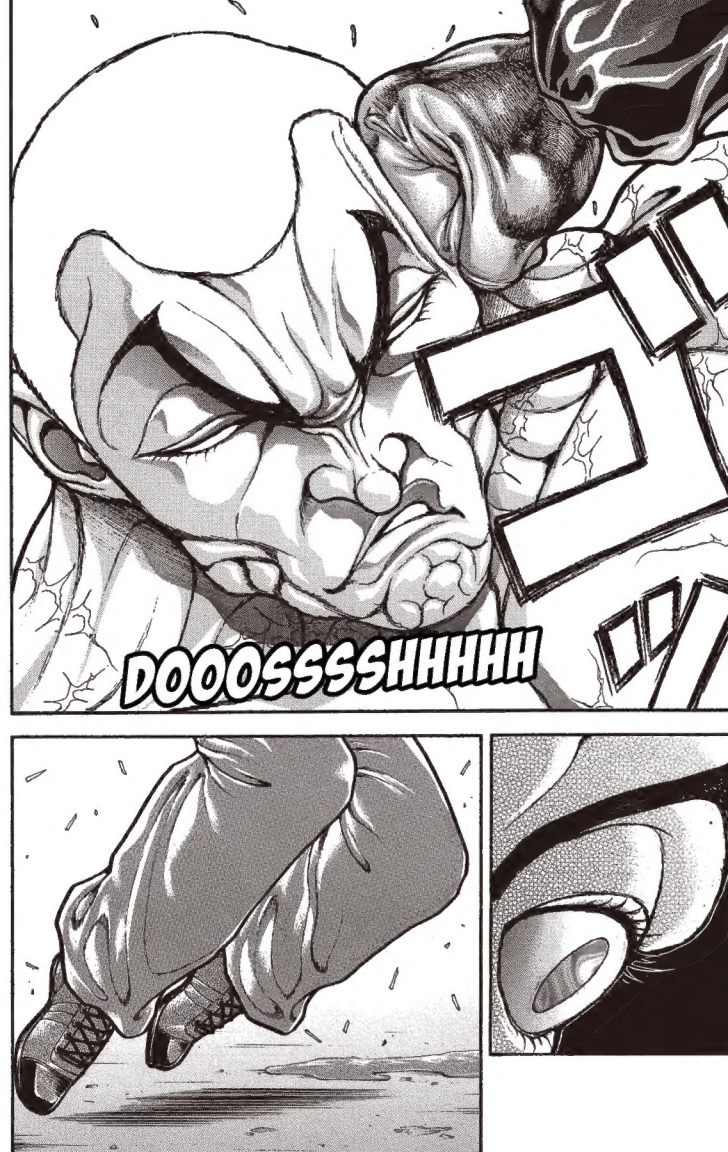
THEY GOT YOU SECOND PLACE IN THE ULTIMATE FIGHTERS TOURNAMENT.
THWOOP
THWISH

SHOOMPH
THWISH
THWIP

GO SHOOT UP IF YOU NEED TO.
I CAN WAIT.
FWUMF
WORD ON THE STREET IS YOU HAVE YOUR OWN STYLE OF BOXING.
I HEARD ABOUT YOU...

THIS IS GONNA BE FUN!
PTOOO

BASWOOOOMMMPPPHHHHHH


DOOOSSSSHHHHH

THUNK
BEAUTIFUL...
BAKI VOLUME 28 END

BAKI 28

KEISUKE ITAGAKI

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